DEUTSCHEN EVANGELISCHEN
ST. JOHANNES GEMEINDE

FIRST EVANGELICAL CHURCH

1876

1976

DU QUOIN, ILLINOIS

FIRST EVANGELICAL & REFORMED CHURCH

100 YEARS OF OUR SERVICE TO GOD

PREFACE

This booklet is concerned with the founding, organization, and life of the Deutschen Evangelishen St. Johannes Gemeinde (German Evangelical St. John's Church).

We have attempted to trace and compile as accurately as possible the history of the church to the present. Information was gathered from Original Church Record Books; Annual Yearbooks; Perry County Record Books; Organizational Reports; History of Randolph, Monroe, and Perry Counties; DuBois History; and personal visits with members. We have not intentionally omitted names, organizations, or memorials. If we have done so, we are sorry.

Mildred Hirsch, Chairman
Anna Miller
Clara Keiner
George Hammann

The above named members were appointed by Council President, Lawrence Keiner, in March, 1968. Anna Miller and Clara Keiner who contributed a great deal have been disabled for 3 or 4 years. George Hammann passed away in December, 1974. We pay special tribute to Mr. Hammann and to Mrs. Hirsch who gave many dedicated hours in the gathering and writing of this booklet.

The following people were later asked to serve on the committee: John Winter, Ida Ruth Anderson, Robert Miller, and Bertha Darsham. Rev. Fred Fieker has been throughout a constant source of help and advice to the committee. Gene Gallmeister also was invaluable, particularly in the area of photography and general format of the book.

We humbly express our appreciation to the many people who helped in any way in the writing of this history and for the privilege of preparing this document.

May it be an inspiration to all who read it. May it be to the future generations, a source of information and appreciation for the rich heritage in the United Church of Christ of Du Quoin, Illinois.

REV. FRED FIEKER FAMILY

(Seated) Mrs. Carolyn and Rev. Fred Fieker. (Standing) Sarah, Daniel and Jon Fieker.

DEDICATION

These pages are humbly dedicated to our Heavenly Father, Who has so lavishly poured out His Love to all who would receive it. God's great love has been a constant source of strength and inspiration to the worthy pastors of our Church. For the past century they have ministered their congregations and encouraged those who have labored especially hard in His vineyard.

We extend grateful tribute to the pastors and their loyal workers —

those of yesterday, in loving memory of the fathers and mothers who struggled to establish our House of Worship and maintain its ideals within their own homes.

those of today, in recognition of those who are carrying on the duties and are perpetuating the faith of yesterday.

those of tomorrow, in hopeful expectation that the oncoming children and adults shall carry on the good work and become living links binding hearts in Christian love.

THE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

1976 CHURCH COUNCIL

Front Row — Herman Hirsch, Eloise Threewitt, Adam Harsy and Don Harsy.
Back Row — Harry W. Huite, Kathryn Anderson, Rev. Fred Fieker, Alan Rogers, Edward Kunkel and Robert Miller.

The work of the church council is little understood by those who have never served in this capacity.

Their work is done quietly and without fanfare. Although the pastor is, and must be, the guiding force of the church, he will wisely use the church council to feel the pulse of the congregation. Complaints, praise and problems about which the pastor might be unaware, oft come to the attention of a council member. Many hours are spent in council meetings discussing the welfare of the church. By virtue of their position council members should be leaders in the direction the church will take. For many years there was no restriction on the number of consecutive terms a councilman might serve. Fred Emling, who is recognized elsewhere in this history account, served nine consecutive 3 yr. terms on the council, each year as financial secretary, during which time he regularly collected the offering for each service, recorded the amounts given by each individual member for the annual yearbook. From the church's inception until just a few years ago, this job was done by one of the council members. Through many years of the church's history finances have been a real problem. Many times council members have of necessity concerned themselves more with financial difficulties than spiritual things. Although council meetings often involve strong differences of opinion on the concerns involved with the work of the church, and there are many frustrations on inability to do what one feels needs to be done, there is a real sense of reward in the feeling that one does his best to further God's work on earth with a true love for his church.

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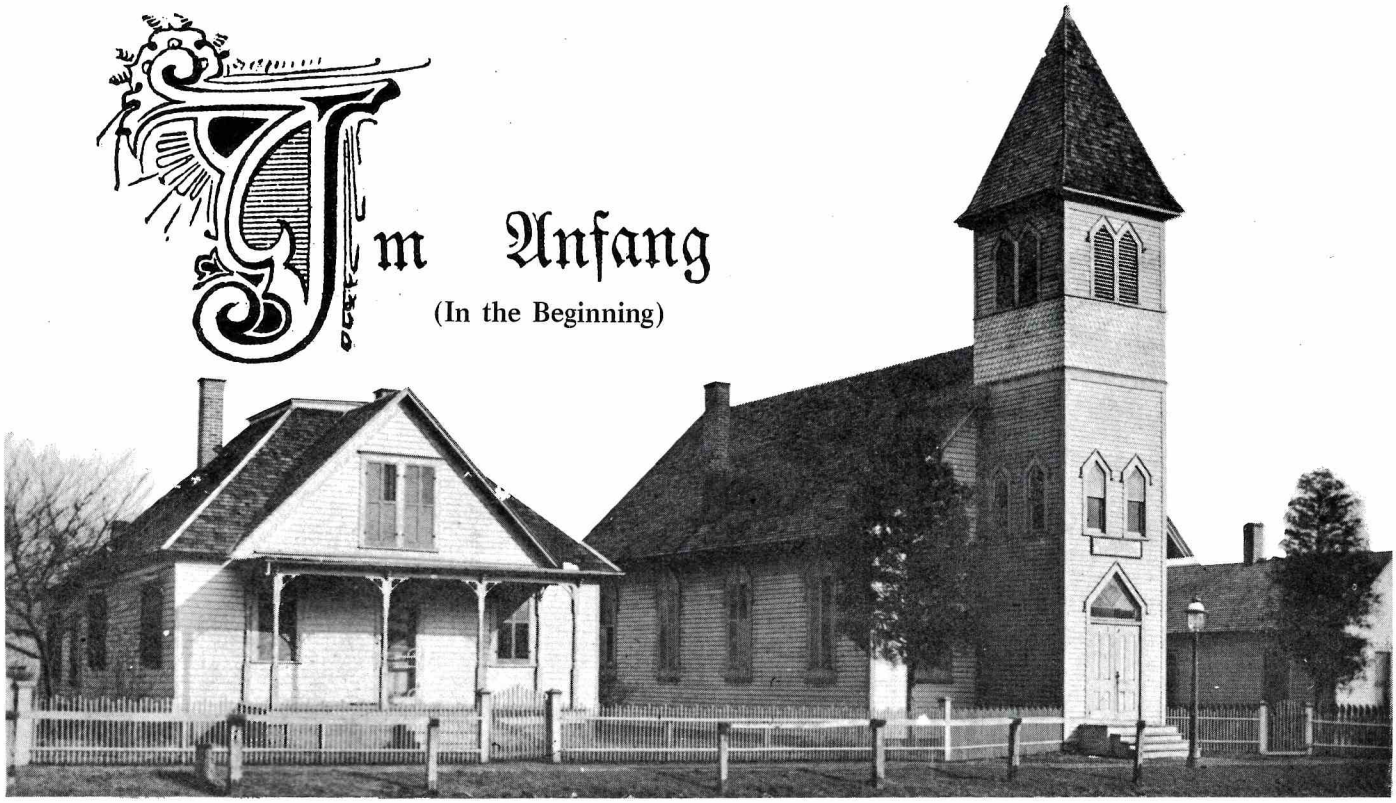
Im Anfang

(In the Beginning)



Deutschen Evangelischen St. Johannes Gemeinde
(German Evangelical St. John's)

No one ever knows what God can do through Him until he has given Him a chance. If we are ready to give "our utmost for the highest" the undreamed of and impossible will be accomplished through us.[1] Possibly it was a quotation such as this, in addition to being a dedicated servant of God, that prompted a Rev. Kaufman from Pinckneyville to visit the Du Quoin area in 1875 and attempt to found a congregation that would fit the spiritual needs of the German protestant families from this area. As they held their first meetings they found that there were more of their own persuasion than they had any idea of. There were nineteen families to enroll on the list.

The congregation was officially organized during the days of 1876 and chose the name *Deutschen Evangelischen St. Johannes Gemeinde (German Evangelical St. John's).* The congregation first met in the Du Quoin Public Schoolhouse located on the northeast corner of North Hickory and Reed Streets.

The first official minutes of the congregation's organization as recorded in church records are as follows:

Du Quoin, January 16, 1876

The congregation met in the home of Brother Lewedag. Fourteen members were present. At the motion of Brother Berger, seconded by Brother Kraus; Brother Lewedag was named president pro tem. At the motion of Brother Lewedag, seconded by H. Heinke, A. Berger was named secretary pro tem. The president through office declared the meeting opened for the purpose of electing the directors of the congregation. The following were named: Conrad Kunkel, Jacob Sutter, John Heberer, George Croessmann, ---Seibert, August Eichhorn, Charles Weinberg, Julius Lewedag, Chris Hummel, Leo Kraus, Fred Ellis, and A. Berger.

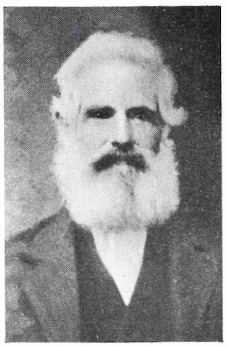
After a legitimate vote in proper form the following result was read by the secretary pro tem.

Seibert - 5	Sutter - 12	Lewedag - 11	Hummel - 8	Eichorn - 1
Kunkel - 11	Heberer - 5	Ellis - 1	Berger - 9	
Croessmann - 7	Kraus - 4	Weinberg - 6	Höefle - 1	

The president there by declared J. Lewedag, G. Croessmann, J. Sutter, C. Kunkel, C. Hummel, and A. Berger properly elected. Since there was no further business, the president pro tem declared the meeting adjourned.

A. Berger, Secretary Pro Tem

[1] J. C. White

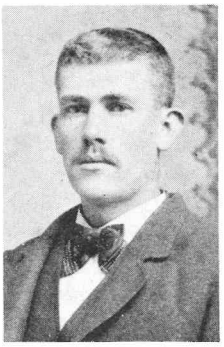


Conrad Kunkel

George Croessmann

Chris Hummel

John Heberer



Jacob Sutter

August Eichorn

The next congregational meeting was held on April 16, 1876. Main business was a motion made and seconded that subscriptions for the salary of the Pastor were due from January, 1876.

On May 28, 1876, the following minutes of the congregational meeting were recorded:

Du Quoin, May 28, 1876

The congregational meeting was opened by Pastor Kaufman.

A motion was made and seconded that the part of paragraph 10 of the congregation's regulations that 2/3 of the qualified voting members required for the election of the pastor be suspended for this time. Unanimously accepted.

A motion was made and seconded that H. Julius Kramer be pastor - unanimously accepted.

A motion was made and seconded that a fixed pastor's salary of $300.00 be guaranteed by the congregation- unanimously accepted.

Moved and seconded that a two-week church service be required - unanimously accepted. Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Pastor Kaufman
A. Berger, Secty.

The next official meeting was held July 30, 1876; in Brother Lewedag's home. It was agreed that the congregation pay Pastor Kaufman another $60.00 for his service to the congregation. It was also decided that it was necessary to call a special meeting of the congregation as early as possible to discuss the construction of a church, particularly, the necessary steps to undergo in order to attain this goal.

Pastor Kramer came to the German Evangelical St. John's Church from St. Joseph, Missouri in May 1876. According to a baptismal record services were now being held in the Christian Church. Due to financial straits of the small but growing congregation, payment of the first year's salary for the pastor was made by Charles Weinberg.

Minutes of two official meetings to discuss construction of the first church are as follows:

Du Quoin, August 5, 1876

The meeting especially called for this day was opened by Pastor Kramer.

The secretary read the list of members and found 17 present, therefore a quorum. Pastor Kramer declared that deliberation over the construction of a new church could be held.

It was moved and seconded that a subscription list for the construction of a church be made up immediately. Unanimously accepted.

It was moved and seconded that the Board of Directors of the congregation be delegated to collect money for the purpose. Unanimously accepted.

It was moved and seconded that all contributions for the construction of our church be given to the treasurer of our church until, at the latest, the first of November of this year. Motion passed.

After an inspirational speech by Pastor Kramer, wherein he exhorted that each member try his utmost in the construction efforts, it was moved and seconded that the congregation meeting adjourn until Sunday the 20th of August. Unanimously accepted.

A. Berger, secretary
Pastor Kramer.

Du Quoin, August 20, 1876

The meeting, adjourned on the 5th day of this month, under the chairmanship of Pastor Kramer, was opened. Eighteen members were present.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by the secretary and the report accepted.

At the president's request, the secretary explained that two pieces of land had been offered, suitable for the construction of a church, and the description of the two was similar.

The proposal to name a committee of five to select and purchase a particular piece of land for the construction of the church, was after a short discussion withdrawn. Brother Lewedag made the proposal, seconded by Brother Kaul, that the lot on the west side of the railroad station and south of H. Petri's property be purchased. Proposal accepted.

Moved and seconded that the decision be taken into consideration. Motion accepted. Br. Eichhorn, who was not well, asked if his son could vote in his place. This request was granted.

Brother Wicklein proposed and Br. Yehling seconded that the piece of land on Division Street west of H. Schroder and north of Fr. Keyes lots be purchased for the construction of the church with the understanding that this be procured for $225.00. Unanimously accepted.

Since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned for an indefinite time.

The congregation evidently failed to acquire the property on Division Street for some unknown reason because the following record shows: On September 5, 1876, Trustees of the German Evangelical St. John's Church purchased the lot on which our present church stands from R. W. Elstun for $125.00. Below is original entry taken from Deed Record Perry County, Book 4, P. 361.

Robert W. Elstun of City of Du Quoin in the county of Perry for $125.00 in hand, paid, conveys, and warrants to the Trustees of the German Evangelical St. John Church of the City of Du Quoin, County of Perry and State of Illinois the following described real estate: Lot II in Block 9 in Railroad addition in Du Quoin, etc.

Fifth of September A.D., 1876
Robert W. Elstun

filed 13th September 1876

Mr Conrad Kunkel, a charter member, was one who took Rev. Kramer around to solicit subscriptions for the new church. According to the first church records amounts given ranged from $1.00 to $25.00. A $20.00 to $25.00 subscription was considered to be a large amount. There is one entry that shows a $60.00 subscription. That is the only one over $25.00. The average pledge was $5.00 to $10.00. Total subscriptions by cash for 1876 were $926.10.

On September 27, 1876, the church paid D.T. De Lano $10.00 for drawing. This evidently was the architectural drawing. John Chapman was the contractor for the new church. Through October, November and December he was paid $1,147.97½.

By this time the congregation had increased to 26 families. When the church was completed there was a debt of $900.00.

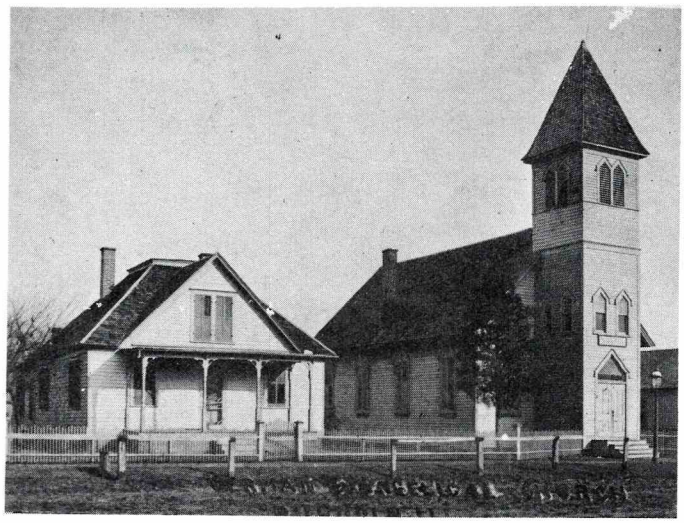
The following is a list of extra work done by John Chapman, the contractor, in January 1877.

1 Back Door -$10.00	Backhouse -$12.00
2 Steps -$10.00	Coalhouse -$8.00
Fence in Front -$28.50	Extra work on chimneys -$10.00

Pulpit, Altar, Baptismal Font, Partition, 2 Doors, Altar Platform, Pulpit, Steps - $185.00. Other items listed are:

Extra painting - $32.00
Stoves - $24.43
Church seats - $214.95
Chandeliers - $47.90
Nails, hinges, brooms - $3.15
Load of coal - $1.75
Pipes on chimneys - $32.30
Stonework on font - $10.00

The total cost of the church, furnishings, and miscellaneous was $1,939.90. The dedication offering on January 7, 1877, was $40.55. There were three loans totaling $975.00. The first parsonage stood directly in front of the entrance to the present educational building. That first parsonage was later moved and is now on North Howard Street, here in Du Quoin.



1877

A bell for the first church was purchased by the Frauen Verein (Woman's Guild) in 1892 at a cost of $38.35. This bell was first mounted on a low platform on the south side of the front entrance. Then in 1895 the bell was moved into the church tower. Mr. William Gross, Louis Croessmann, Chris Schickedanz, Fred Kunze (then aged 16), and another unknown fellow, hung the bell in the tower.

The following news item appeared in "Harking Back" in the Du Quoin Evening Call on February 19, 1904:

"The new belfry of the St. John German Evangelical Church on South Hickory Street was struck by lightning Wednesday night during the electric storm and considerable damage done there to."

Our Du Quoin Church shared its first eight pastors with the Evangelical St. Marks Church at Du Bois. In April 1894 Du Bois voted to be independent and have her own pastor. But as time went on they were unable to pay a full-time pastor so Rev. William B. Weltge served the Du Bois Church. Most of our first pastors including Rev. Weltge also served the Sutter Church which was located in the country about 8 - 10 miles southwest of Du Quoin. Many of the ministers rode horseback or drove a horse and buggy to get to the little country church.

Church Sanctuary, 1877

To show how history repeats itself; church records show that interest paid on loans was 7% in 1892.

The offering plate at the first church was called a "Kingelbeutel," A velvet cloth with a bell attached to the tassel was fastened to a long pole. The ushers stood in the aisle, held the pole, and passed it along the pews. We have been told that the purpose of the bell was to awaken any sleeping members.

Olin Galloway, Church Council President with Klingelbeutel

Extensive interior renovation of the first church building took place in 1912. Records fail to give us much definite information. A furnace was procured and was installed in a very small cellar-like corner under the first church. The schoolroom behind the church was built at the time of the renovation, or around the year 1912.

The following is a part of the business meeting dated January 20, 1918:

"On the above date, the congregation met for the annual meeting, which was opened by prayer by the person whose signature appears at the bottom. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Then followed the treasurer's report which was as follows:

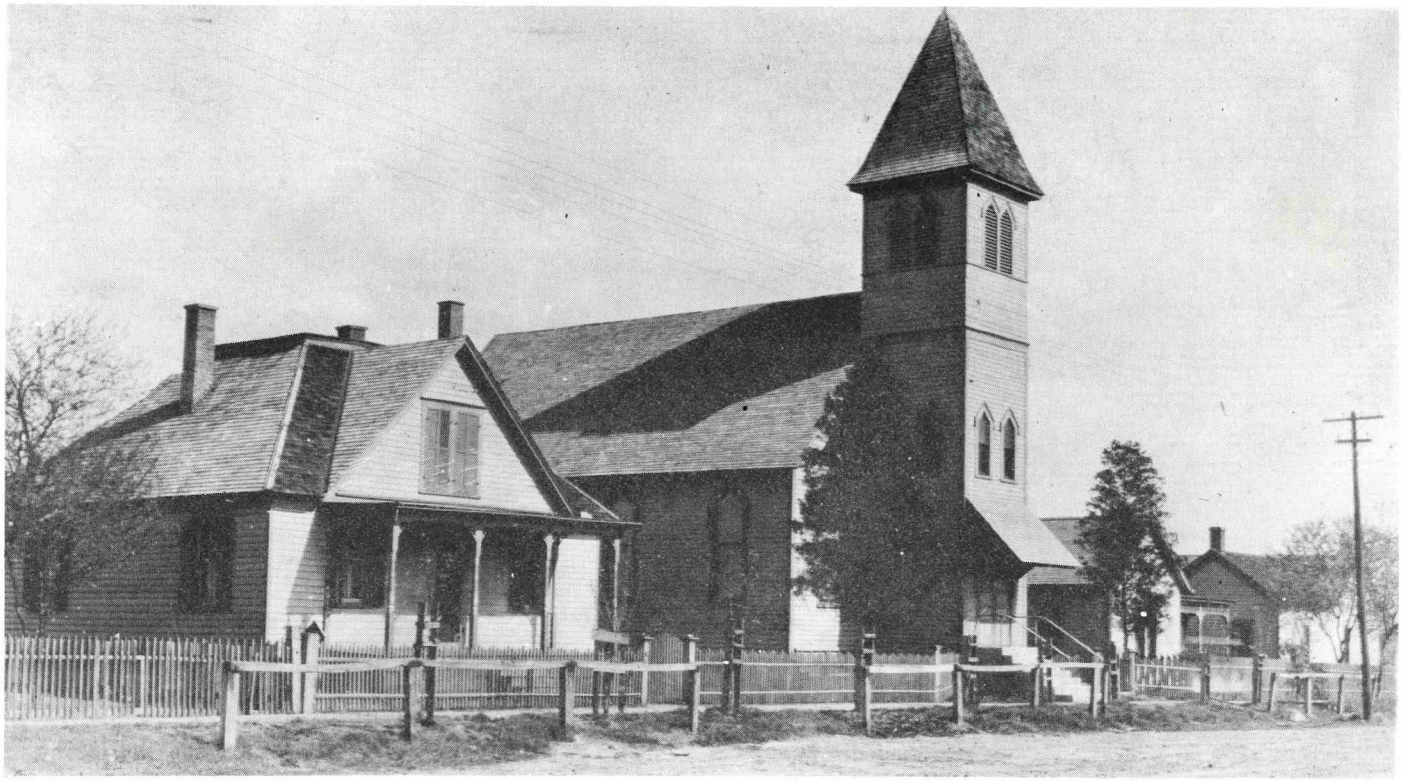
Income - $928.77
Expenses - $898.21
Balance - $30.56

Only 43 members were present. Four candidates were nominated for council. J. Weinberg, Phil Schickedanz, Henry Schickedanz Sr., and Adam Heberer. Schickedanz and Heberer were elected.
Then the recommendation was made that there should be a decision about Sutter's Church near Du Quoin. Since it had become evident that the yearly promised contribution of $750.00 could not be kept up, the undersigned recommended that at least $700 be paid and then the Sutter congregation be left in the hands of the pastor. This motion was approved. Since the sexton had resigned his office, a recommendation was made and approved that the director be given the authority to replace him.

It was further decided that the $75.00 note which had been undersigned by the bank because of a lack to pay it out of Pastor Friebe's salary, was to be placed in the hands of three to collect. President William Gross appointed Adam Heberer, Anton Wolk, and Conrad Schickedanz for this. Then a prayer ended the meeting.

Rev. Wm. B. Weltge, Secty.

GERMAN EVANGELICAL CHURCH 1912



The following clipping appeared in the Du Quoin Evening Call on June 8, 1968 in the Harking Back section "50 Years Ago." On checking with the Call office we learned that the article appeared on the front page of the June 3, 1918 issue. It read as follows:

DEDICATE NEW SERVICE FLAG

"An attendance that greatly overtaxed the capacity of the church was present last evening at the service flag ceremonies at the St. John's Evangelical Church, of which Rev. William B. Weltge is pastor.

The service flag of this church at the present time contains 21 stars, each of them a vivid emblem and representative of some boy who has gone forth from this parish at the call of his country, willing to offer his life, if necessary, in order that the rights of civilization and humanity be retained. Rev. Brink of Pinckneyville was secured to deliver the sermon for this occasion, and responded with an inspiring address in which he paid a glowing tribute to the boys in khaki, and the sacrifice they are undergoing for the sake of their country.

Additional features that added very greatly to the evening's ceremonies were a number of selections by the choir and a beautiful violin solo by Miss Adlaide Horn, one of Du Quoin's most talented violinists.

Doubtless the service flag of this congregation, as well as those of others of our city churches, will continue to expand and additional stars given place of honor on it, as the world struggle goes steadily on."

All minutes and records of the church's history were written in German until January 12, 1919. The minutes of business meeting were written in English. It was at this meeting that it was debated whether to continue having German services and when to have them, but the question was postponed. Finally at the January meeting 1920, the motion was made, seconded, and passed to set the first Sunday of every month aside as German service Sunday. At the same time it was agreed that there must be English evening services on every Sunday when there was a German service.

In 1920 a basement was put under the entire building. This seemed to be the only change to take place at this time. With the addition of the basement the annual suppers sponsored by the ladies of the church could now be held at the church. Preceding the year 1920 they were held at the Lyric Hall up town.

The congregation called a special meeting on February 11, 1923 and gave the Council full power to buy the property adjoining the church property on the North. The transfer from Warranty Deed Record Book No. 88 (Court House Records) follows.

"Henry J. Schleper and his wife Bernean D. Schleper of the City of Du Quoin, County of Perry and State of Illinois for and in consideration of $5,000.00 in hand, convey and warrant to the Trustees of the German Evangelical St. John Church, or their successors of the City of Du Quoin, County of Perry and State of Illinois, the following described Real Estate to wit: Lot number Thirteen (13) Block Nine (9) Railroad Addition to the City of Du Quoin. Dated: March 1st, A.D. 1923.

In 1924 a furnace was ordered and came in by freight. Adam Weis who then worked for Owen's Transfer remembers hauling the furnace to the church and unloading it alone on a large pile of sand behind the church.

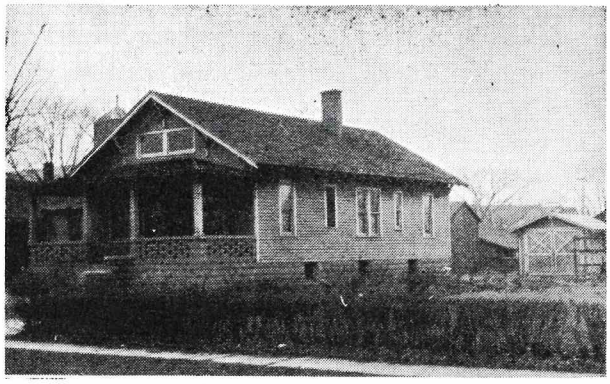
At the February 20, 1927 annual meeting it was accepted that the name of the church be officially changed from St. John's Evangelical Church to First Evangelical Church. This change came about because out-of-towners thought that the St. John's Evangelical Church meant a church in the village of St. Johns which is about one mile north of Du Quoin.

On Sunday May 20, 1928, a special meeting was held for the purpose of discussing the need for a new church building.

On February 24, 1929 a special meeting was held to make further plans for the new church. The cost of the new building was not to exceed $35,000. The following members were appointed by President Conrad Schickedanz to assist the council on the Building Committee: George Croessmann, William Appuhn, Oscar Steinkamp, and Fred Kunze. The Council at that time consisted of: Conrad Schickedanz, Pres-

St. John's Evangelical Church, 1920

ident; George Beck; Vice-President; Fred Emling, Financial Secretary; V. G. Croessmann, Treasurer; George Hammann, Recording Secretary; Chris Schickedanz, A. J. Appuhn, Walter Hammann, and H.H. Walker.



Church Parsonage

The Building Committee immediately went into action and called a meeting for February 26, 1929. At this meeting the committee was divided into groups to visit other churches in neighboring towns to get plans and ideas for the new House of Worship. A committee of three was also appointed at this time to get figures for the cost of moving the School House back and to put it on a solid foundation. They were to make arrangements to dispose of the original church building.

After ideas and plans were gathered, the most suitable for our congregation was decided upon. At regularly scheduled meetings of the Building Committee such questions as follows were brought up: Where should the new building be set? How far from the south line? What kind of heat? Location of the primary room? Water connections and fixtures? What kind of brick? Various entrances into the building? Plumbing specifications? Kind of roofing? etc.

Finally on April 28, 1929, a special congregational meeting was called to present the architectural drawings. The congregation approved and accepted the plans and specifications of the Building Committee for the new church.

On June 1, 1929, the Building Committee met to open bids for the construction. Mr. J. J. Miller of Illmo, Missouri was awarded the contract for a bid submitted of $26,973.00 with no plumbing, heating, or wiring included. C. K. Campbell was awarded installation of the heating plant at a cost of $1800.00. Du Quoin Plumbing Co. was given a contract for $797.00. Hayden-Danbury received the contract for lighting at a cost of $756.00. Total contracts totalled $30,326.

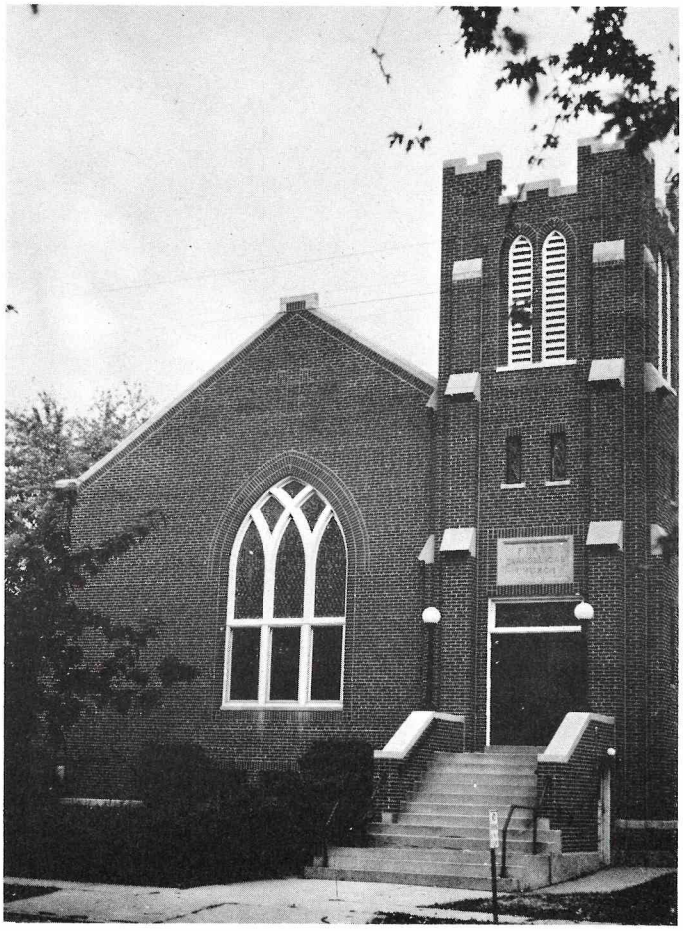
After the major contracts were awarded it was decided by the Building Committee that Mr. F. W. Gross have supervision of the work of the new church. Mr. Gross accepted the job.

Conrad Schickedanz, Rev. W. B. Weltge, and H. H. Walker were on the committee to select windows for the new church. George Beck, Fred Kunze and George Croessmann, assisted by Rev. Weltge, were to select pews, altar and pulpit. V. G. Croessmann, Fred Emling and Chris Schickedanz were to select light fixtures.

In addition to the above mentioned committee members the following members were appointed by President Conrad Schickedanz to serve in various capacities on the new church project: George Hammann, Charles Croessmann, Chris Schickedanz Jr., John N. Seibert, Lucius Beck, Albert Appuhn, Louis Young, Fred Reiss, Walter Hammann, William Gross, John Kaul, Charles Kellerman, Mrs. Chris Schickedanz, Mrs. Fred Franks Jr., Mrs. William Sims, Mrs. D. T. Marlow, Mrs. Charles Grills, Mrs. Walter Stanczyk, Mrs. Alonzo Lockhart, Mrs. Cecil Burgoon.

While final plans were being made for the construction, members were busy tearing down the old building. After all the debris was cleaned up, work was started on digging and enlarging the old basement. Those who helped dig the basement with teams of horses hitched to scrapers were: Hiram Walker, Charlie Emling, Charles Kellerman, Fred Harsy, Alvin Seibert, John N. Seibert, Otto Keiner, George H. Keiner, and Fred Keiner. Others who helped with shovels, spades and mattocks were: John Winter, Robert Schneider Sr., and Herman Weilmuenster.

During the razing of the old and building of the new, the congregation met regularly for Sunday School and Worship Services at the West Park School. (This school was demolished in early 1970).



Evangelical & Reformed Church, 1929

On June 27, 1929, the laying of bricks was commenced. The first brick for the second and present church was put down by Rev. W. B. Weltge at 8:47 A.M. On July 7th, 1929, at 2:30 P.M. the Cornerstone Laying Ceremony took place. A great number of members and friends were present for this service. Speakers for the afternoon were Rev. Reiss of Pinckneyville and Rev. Esser of Murphysboro. The officers of the Building Committee also had their Bible verses which were spoken at the laying of the cornerstone. The services were broken up by a terrible rainstorm that came while Rev. Reiss was addressing the audience.

On July 5, 1929, the committee for selecting furniture signed a contract to purchase the following: 30 pews, 20 choir chairs, 2 chancel chairs, pulpit and lectern at a cost of $2,730.00. All were to be in a dull finish. The committee was instructed by the Council to order 100 extra chairs (large and small).

On July 15 the window committee was given permission to purchase the antique type glass windows from Jacoby Glass Co. of St. Louis for $2,700.00 (not including basement glass).

At the business meeting of October 20, 1929, a motion was made that the Altar, Pulpit, and Baptismal Font from the first church be donated to the Du Bois congregation.

The following headline appeared in the December 3, 1929, issue of the Du Quoin Evening Call and parts of the article follow:

Evangelical Church Building Dedicated with Great Services

"Sunday was a great day in the life of the First Evangelical Church of this city; a day long to be remembered by hundreds who gathered within the walls of the magnificent new temple of worship which had been under construction the past few months, and which was this day being dedicated to the worship of Jehovah and the Redeemer of mankind.

The old building which is replaced by this building enterprise had served well its day for several decades past, but had become entirely too small, as well as antiquated in its architecture. Many of the older members regretted, no doubt, to sacrifice its walls within which they worshiped hundreds and hundreds of times. Yet they rejoice now that they have built this finer and more commodious house unto their God. It is, indeed, a house of beauty, with everything that could be desired in the way of equipment.

As one approaches the building, which faces west on South Hickory Street, he is impressed with the inviting appearance and has every incentive to get himself in the attitude of worship... The beautiful art memorial window which is in the center of this end of the building is a thing of marvelous beauty. It portrays "Christ In the Garden" and is the gift of the Sunday School boys and girls, having been financed by their nickels and dimes, principally gotten together over the weeks and months past. (Cover Photo).

While the building as dedicated has cost $40,000, that being the amount represented officially by the records...yet if all the gifts of individuals and organizations over and above that were included, together with tha labor of members donated in the construction, the cost would be estimated at not less than $50,000, and more likely $60,000. The art window and the eight other memorial windows, and many articles of the furnishings are thus provided individually and are not included in the $40,000.

The auditorium of the building has seats for 425, but, as was the case Sunday, seats can easily be placed to accommodate the 600 or more who attended the services.

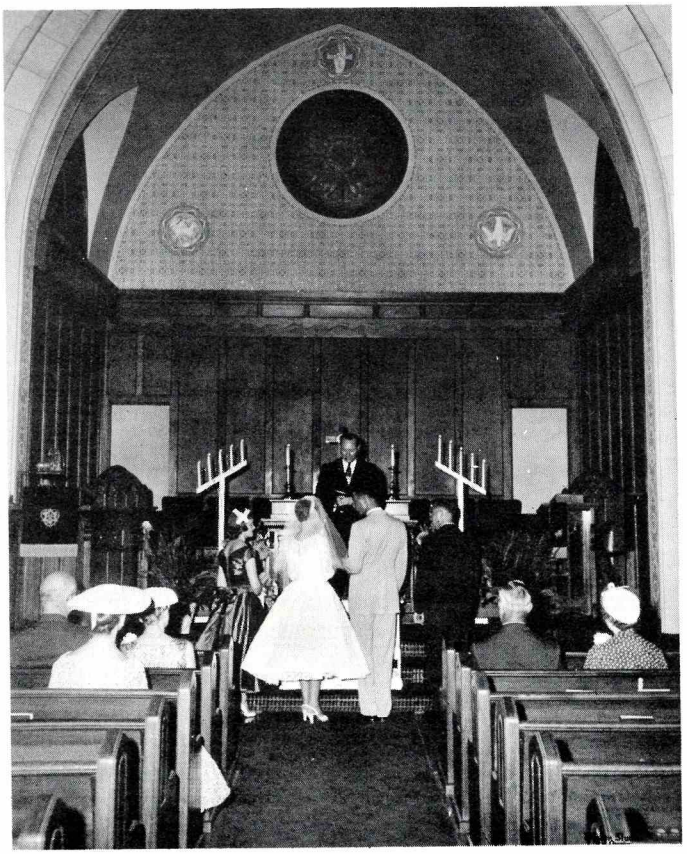
The beautifully toned pipe organ was built and installed by the Kilgen Company of St. Louis, and was impressive in its part of the services Sunday, under the skillful hands of Mrs. D. T. Marlow, the organist and director of the music. The singing throughout the dedication services was excellent and the congregational singing was delightsome, led by the choir of trained voices.

Many members of the church gave excellent service in bringing the building to a realization but Pastor Weltge commends especially Chris Schickedanz, Jr., of the building committee, who was constantly on the job when not absolutely detained at his regular work.

There were three splendid services during the day Sunday, but the dedication service proper was held in the morning at 10 o'clock.

Services were held four nights of the following week: Tuesday evening at 7:30, Men's Night. Rev. Streich of St Louis gave the address. Wednesday evening at 7:30, Ladies Night. Rev. A. E. Yeager of East St. Louis, delivered the sermon. Thursday evening, 7:30, Young People's Night. Rev. Warskow of Marion delivered the sermon. Friday evening, Sunday School Night. All children met in the basement of the church for games at 7 o'clock.

It was the deepfelt wish of all that this beautiful house of worship resound through the days and years to come with praises unto "Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood." - Rev. 1:6.



At a special meeting in February, 1930, the Building Committee was relieved of their labors and thanked for their services rendered in erecting the new edifice. The pastor's salary was also increased to $150.00 per month.

On June 26, 1934, in Cleveland, Ohio, two long processions of men and women approached the Zion Evangelical Church from opposite directions. As the two lines approached each other, the church bells were ringing to tell that two churches were about to become one. One of these processions was made up of the delegates of the Evangelical Synod of North America and the other of delegates of the General Synod of the Reformed Church in the U. S. A. As the procession reached the church door, the members of the two lines met and entered two by two, an Evangelical and a Reformed delegate. This "Plan of Union" became a reality that historic evening. The two churches merged and became The Evangelical and Reformed Church.

In early 1935 the parsonage was extensively damaged by fire. During the renovation and repair of the parsonage Pastor Weltge and his family resided at the corner of Mulberry and Poplar Streets. The total paid for parsonage repairs was $1,448.46.

Church Parsonage, 1935.

In 1937 a new furnace, kitchen cabinets, and sink were installed in the parsonage. Two years later the church sanctuary was decorated.

World War II again called many of our young men to serve their country as did in 1918 (World War I). By 1943 over 50 young men from our congregation were in the Armed Forces.

May 28, 1944, was a happy day for our congregation! The following minutes read:

> "On the above date the entire congregation met for the joyous occasion of paying off the final debt on our present church building. At 11:45 A.M. Pentecost Sunday, we became a debt-free church." (The ashes from the last notes were preserved and are in the Church Record Book)

Since the members had been relieved of this long debt they now saw another need - that of increasing the pastor's salary. By 1947 they had granted an increase of $300.00 a year in each of two years.

In the April 4, 1946 minutes a concern over the church constitution, still written in German, was voiced and a motion was made that it be revised and rewritten in English. Following proper procedure of committee appointment and many, many hours of dedicated work a new constitution was drawn up. At a special meeting held in December, 1947 the constitution was accepted and was to go into effect January 1, 1948.

Also in 1946 the parsonage underwent extensive interior remodeling. A stoker for the furnace was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Otto Blum. Art glass windows in the church were repaired at a cost of $650.75. In the following year, 1947, the church purchased their first projector and screen. With the advent of audio-visuals new worries must have arisen because in a few months the councilmen were concerned over a movie which the young people were planning to show in the church. Decision was made that before any movie be shown it should have the approval of the minister and council.

The church sanctuary was redecorated in 1948 at a cost of $1,483.00. Some of the plastering labor was donated by Val and Theodore Kunze, and Mack McCabe.

The summer of 1948 must have been a very hot one because councilmen gave much time discussing methods of cooling the sanctuary and choir chancel. By the next summer a large belfry exhaust fan and a smaller fan had been purchased. The ringing of the church bell on Saturday evening to remind parishioners and townspeople of the Sabbath Day was temporarily dispensed with in this year.

The church Council and members paid tribute to Fred Emling in 1950 for 27 years of faithful services as financial secretary. During those 27 years he had a perfect attendance record. He was presented a watch as a token of thanks.

Following the turn of the mid-century the congregation was looking forward to observing the 75th anniversary. They wanted all things in top-notch order for the occasion. 27 maroon choir robes with stoles and pulpit robe were purchased with donations from members and classes.

The old school building behind the church was moved nearer the back of the church to make room for a parking lot behind the church and to extend across the back of the parsonage lot. Rock was purchased for the area and a new fence was built.

The following article relating to the 75th anniversary observance appeared in the daily paper on October 20, 1951, the day before the celebration:

> "Rev. John Mauthe, pastor of the Du Quoin Evangelical and Reformed Church since 1936, will deliver the opening sermon, "What Religion Will Never Outgrow," on the occasion of church's 75th anniversary services tomorrow at 10:30 A.M.
>
> The choir will sing "Inside the Little Church Door" by Walter R. Clarke at the combined Sunday School and church worship. Topic of the special children's sermon will be "The Legend of the Leaves."
>
> Following the morning service a basket dinner will be served.
>
> At afternoon worship services beginning at 2:30 P.M. former pastor Rev. William B. Weltge of the St.

Luke Evangelical Church in St. Louis will deliver the main address.

Felicitations from the Du Quoin Ministerial Alliance will be brought by Rev. W. S. Erwin, president of the organization and pastor of the local First Presbyterian Church.

The choir will sing the anthem "God's House" by Lynda Parker Loucks.

After the service, an evening fellowship meal will be offered to all friends and visitors.

Movies depicting some scenes from the retired life of former pastor Rev. K. Friebe of Brighton will be shown. A gallery of pictures of former pastors and confirmation classes has been collected for the occasion.

Reviewing the history of the 75-year-old church, Rev. Mauthe comments "The congregation has continued to grow through the years and at present has the largest membership in its history."

Officers and members of the 1951 church council are: president, Robert Miller; vice-president, Arthur Fietsam; financial secretary, Edward Hammann; treasurer, George Anderson, Sr.; recording secretary, Angelo Genesio; members, Arthur Morgenstern, John Mucha, George Pugh, and Oscar Steinkamp.

Responsible for the music at the church are: Mrs. D. T. Marlow, organist and choir director; and Mrs. Virginia Appuhn Yates and Mrs. Nancy Ralls Hirsch, assistants.

Two women's organizations are active in church work, the Women's Guild and the Junior Women. Officers directing the year's activities in the Women's Guild are Mrs. Arthur Fietsam, president; Mrs. A. J. Appuhn, vice-president; Mrs. John Pauletich, recording secretary; Mrs. L. J. Young, financial secretary; and Mrs. O.E. Blum, treasurer.

Heading the Junior Women are Mrs. Blanche Philbrick, president; Mrs. Dorothy Mucha, vice-president; Mrs. Dale Bird, treasurer; and Mrs. Margaret F. Henderson, secretary.

Responsible for direction of the growing church school enrollment are John Mucha, superintendent; Miss Wilma Hottes, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Nancy Ralls Hirsch, pianist; Mrs. Emil Kromat, superintendent of the primary department; and Miss Mary Ethel Kunze, Primary department pianist.

Three Bible classes meet each Sunday morning, the Friendship Bible Class, taught by Mrs. Emma Grills; the Philathea Bible Class headed by Mrs. John Mauthe; and the Treue Glieder Class taught by Mrs. Norbeth Koonce and Mrs. Carolyn Greer.

Mrs. Agatha Croessmann is president of the Friendship Bible Class, Mrs. Mary Theobald serves as vice-president, and Mrs. Bertha Hirsch is secretary-treasurer.

Officers of the Philathea Bible Class are Mrs. Felitza Johnson, president; Mrs. John Lindner, vice-president; Mrs. James Fredericks, Sunday School Secretary; Mrs. Arthur Morgenstern, social secretary; and Mrs. Otto Blum, treasurer.

The church has both a Churchman's Brotherhood and an Evangelical Youth Fellowship organization.

John Mucha heads the Brotherhood, which meets the third Wednesday night of each month. Oscar Stein-Kamp has been elected vice-president, and George Hammann, Jr. was selected secretary-treasurer.

Youth fellowship meetings and activities are directed by Robert Miller, counselor. Miss Wilma Hottes is 1951 secretary, and Miss Marilyn Kellerman serves as treasurer."

The following statement was written by Rev. John H. Mauthe: "What a happy privilege it was to commemorate 75 years of continued blessing from our eternal God. It brought to our mind the promise of the Savior, "Lo, I am with you always." "What a holy privilege is ours to belong to that organization which is blessed by the ever-present Jesus, our Savior and Lord! We are convinced of His presence, and as a congregation we strive on in faith that He will continue to be with those who desire His leadership. For the successes we have had we praise our Savior, and for our not doing more good through the years we humbly seek His forgiveness."

In the next few years a number of projects were undertaken. Due to poor mortar used in building, the church was tuckpointed by Nick Raab & Son at a cost of $1,940.00. A new roof was put on the parsonage and it was painted.

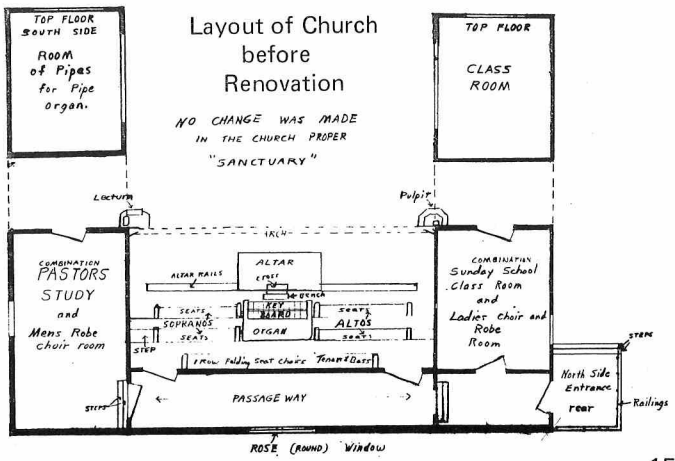
Organizations and classes were constantly watching for needs of the church. A large storm window was purchased to protect the beautiful window in the narthex from weather and deterioration.

By 1954 every little nook and corner in the church was being used for Sunday School classes. This brought about concern for starting a building fund. At the June meeting a Financial and Planning Committee was appointed. Also at this time the school building was sold for $25 and removed from the premises.

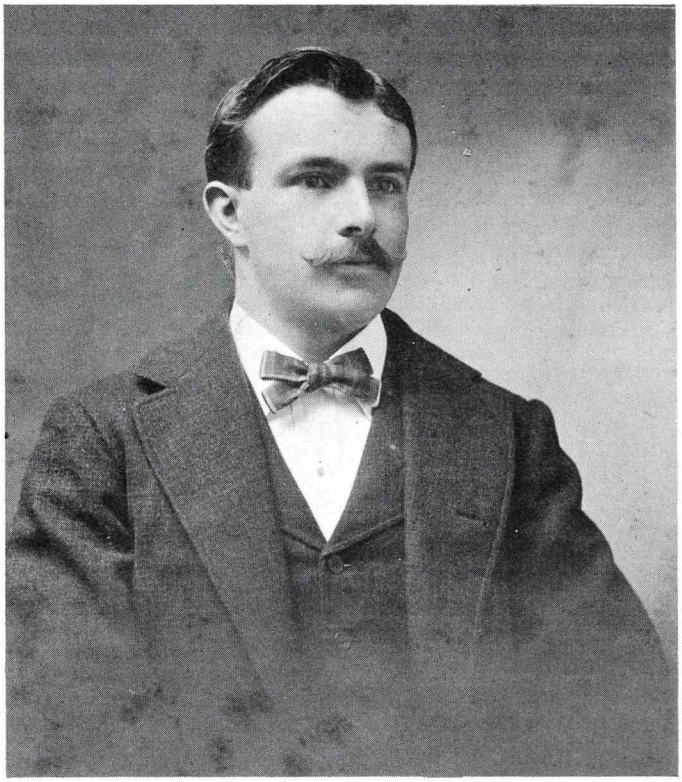
The Evangelical & Reformed Church was a church that recognized all religious bodies as related in Christ. It was in this spirit of ecumenicity that they made the decision to unite with the Congregational Christian Church which came from an entirely different historical background, thus forming the United Church of Christ in the summer of 1957.

During the year 1957 we acquired the lot to the rear of the church at a cost of $2,250.00 to be used as a parking lot. Mr. John Winter purchased the house on the lot and tore it down. Art glass windows were again repaired at a cost of $1,109.80.

A confirmation reunion was held in 1959 for all confirmation classes in the history of the church. For this occasion a large cross was made by Mr. Otto Blum. A candle for each confirmation class from the beginning was placed in the cross and lit by a respective member of each class. For those classes not represented an acolyte lit the candle.



A former member of First E & R Church, Mr. George E. Kaufmann of East St. Louis, who passed away in August, 1957, remembered his childhood church with $108,000.00 the largest bequest ever made to the congregation. In January 1959, a partial payment of $75,000.00 was received from the estate of Mr. Kaufmann. A committee of twelve was selected to study proper investment of the money.



George E. Kauffmann

With the gift of Mr. Kaufmann it was now possible for the building program to be started. At a special congregational meeting held Sunday, October 25, 1959, the following proposal was presented to the congregation, that:

"The building committee use the reports of the various study committees as a basis for preliminary planning, to interview architects, and to engage an architect or architects who will present plans to the congregation for approval and be empowered to spend such money as is necessary to accomplish this work."

This proposal was approved.

In the following May a special congregational meeting was called to discuss renovating and redecorating the sanctuary. The proposal was brought to a vote and carried. A discussion also followed in regard to the purchase of property of the corner lot south of the church. In June the congregation voted to purchase this property for a total of $4,500.00.

Other special events of 1960 are as listed:

New out-door bulletin board erected in memory of Mr. and Mrs. George Keiner by their children. Blue choir robes were purchased for the choir. New constitution and amendments to by-laws were approved by the congregation.

The following article dated August 8, 1960, was taken from the Du Quoin Evening Call:

The congregation of the first Evangelical and Reformed Church approved a $98,236 contract with Provart Construction Company of Pinckneyville for erection of a new educational building and alterations to the sanctuary, President Lawrence Keiner announced following a special business meeting Sunday.

Oscar Steinkamp of Du Quoin was the successful bidder on heating and plumbing work.

The expansion and improvement program was approved by a large majority of the church members.

The new educational building will be attached to the east end of the South Hickory Street church and extend largely to the north and east . . . . .

Three bids on the construction program were open-

Dedication of Bulletin Board

ed at a Friday night meeting attended by Pastor V. J. Kuhlenschmidt; President Lawrence Keiner; Vice-President, Harold Albers; Financial Secretary, George Anderson, Jr.; Treasurer, George Hammann; Henry Hirsch, Edd Mazure, and Howard Berger, council members; and John Winter, chairman; Postmaster, Robert W. Miller, George Hammann, Harold Hottes, Edd Mazure, and Mrs. Clifford Hirsch of the building committeed.

Plans for the improvement program resulted from studies made by nine committees headed by John Mucha, construction and materials; Herny Hirsch, facilities: Mrs. Martin Pflanz, survey; Harold Albers, fellowship; Kathryn Anderson, worship study; Adrian Heller, temperature control and ventilation; Miss Charlene Reidelberger, administration; Mrs. Herman Hirsch, Christian education; and George Hammann, finance.

Seven different architects were consulted. Plans were finally drawn by Ray Holloway of Du Quoin."

The Ground-Breaking Service was held on Sunday, August 28, with the entire congregation proceeding from the Worship service to the site of the new structure. Following a few brief words by Pastor Kuhlenschmidt he turned over the first shovel of earth followed by church President Lawrence Keiner and then John Winter, Chairman of the Building Committee. Mr. Winter also furnished a plow with a long rope for all who wanted to help pull. Due to the large gathering, everyone could not get in on the pulling, but the job was done with a furrow approximately fifty feet long.

Following the Ground-Breaking Service and the beginning of construction came the Cornerstone Laying. Below are parts of the newspaper article which was printed on November 10, 1960:

"The First Evangelical and Reformed Church Sunday laid the cornerstone for a new educational building in memory of the late George E. Kauffmann, bookkeeper from whose estate the church received $108,000.

At the same service, it dedicated an outdoor bulletin board presented by the sons and daughters of the late Mr. and Mrs. George Keiner, Sr. who were also members of the church.

Into a copper container sealed in its cornerstone went: a copy of the dedication service; a Sunday Church bulletin; a list of 1960 church council and building committee members; a November news letter; a clipping from the Saturday, November 12 issue of the Du Quoin Evening Call, announcing the service; and a picture provided by the Owen Norrises, of the pastor placing an item in the receptacle.

Congregational President, Lawrence Keiner, deposited a shiny, new 1960 half-dollar in the container; John Winter, chairman of the building committee, placed a picture of the 1959 council receiving a $75,000 check from the Kauffmann estate, as well as the building study committee reports and membership lists.

A May 23, 1960, newspaper clipping containing an artist's conception of the new building and a story on approval of construction plans was deposited by Mrs. Clifford Hirsch, a member of the building committee; and a list of church members by Mrs. D. T. Marlow.

George Anderson, jr., superintendent of the church school, placed a list of church school members and teachers in the receptacle; Harold Albers, a newspaper clipping on award of the building contract; Bob Payne, a November Youth magazine; Kathryn Anderson, a new penny commemorating a million penny fund for new equipment.

An article on the progress of the building program was contributed by George Hammann and Edd Mazure deposited a church bulletin from the ground-breaking service.

The stone, Reverend V. J. Kuhlenschmidt, pastor, told his congregation, "represents the solid faith as well as the eternity of God . .the cement or mortar represents the tie of the love of God which binds those of Christ together in his fellowship, that we may worship the

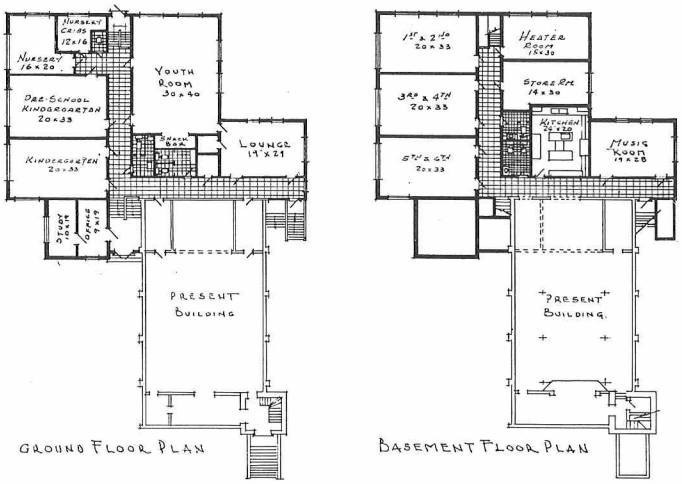
Lord, teach our children of God, and have fellowship in his grace."

He said the stone also represents the late George Kauffmann's love for his church and he reminded his listeners: "We now need to represent the mortar by our gifts of love and service. The building will be no stronger than the tie which we provide."

The cornerstone is of white, Georgia marble with a Gothic window design and flowers on each end. It bears the inscription "In memory of George E. Kauffmann.... To the Glory of the Lord...Erected 1961." It was contributed by Whitt Monuments of West Frankfort.

When construction was first started on the Educational Building, some of the children's classes were conducted in the house on the south corner lot which had been purchased for a parking lot. Beginning in February of 1961 our Church school and Worship Services were held in the Ward School. By April 2, 1961, on Easter Sunday we were ready to hold our worship in the newly decorated sanctuary.

During the summer, action was taken to dispose of the property and furnishing on the south corner lot. After removal of the building, this area became a parking lot.



The following article appeared in the Du Quoin Evening Call the day before the Dedication Service, September 17, 1961:

"A new Christian Educational Building, planned for the future, will be dedicated by the First Evangelical and Reformed Church Sunday in the unity of faith; in the bond of Christian brotherhood; in the charity and good will to all."

At the same time the church will rededicate its renovated sanctuary and dining hall.

Dr. John Schmidt, president of the South Illinois Synod, will give the sermon at the 2:30 P.M. service and join with Rev. Virgil J. Kuhlenschmidt, pastor, in the dedication.

Open house is planned from 3:45 to 5 and from 6:30 to 9:00 P.M. with guided tours and refreshments.

A plaque on the front of the new educational building recognizes the $108,000 bequest of the late George Kauffmann, which made the $140,000 expansion and improvement project possible.

Joined to the old building at the rear, the new structure extends in three directions, north, south, and east. It is built of red brick that closely matches that in sanctuary, which was constructed in 1929.

Aluminum window frames - porcelain finished isolated panels and aluminum dividers - enhance the exterior of the new building, which has entrances convenient to two church parking lots as well as Hickory Street.

A general office and pastor study separated by a diagonal wall, are on the left as one enters the north door of the educational building.

Along the north side of the east-west hallway are three classrooms for children of pre-school age.

A special area for the nursery and toddlers is arranged, by means of glass partitions, so one person can oversee the entire section. Toilet facilities are designed for the little folk. On the south side of the hallway are the youth facilities.

A comfortable "fireside room" is equipped with lounge-type furnitire and has a fireplace at one end. A snack bar, which may be closed off by folding doors, has a stove, sink and refrigerator built into a single unit.

The primary-junior department is located in the three northern most rooms in the basement of the new building. Portable dividers make each room usable by two classes simultaneously.

Stainless steel dominates in the spacious basement kitchen which has 12 cooking units, three ovens and a large, double-door refrigerator. Birch cabinets have laminated plastic tops. A serving window is convenient to the large dining room across the hallway.

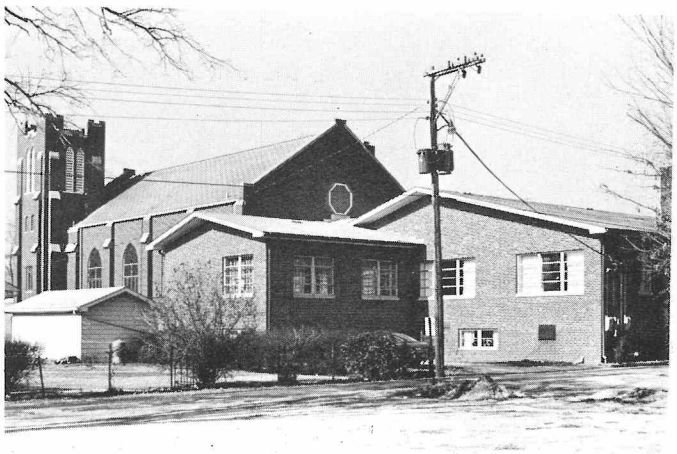
A new, ulta-modern heating plant that serves both buildings is also situated in the basement. It is constructed so six separate zones can be heated individually or collectively.

At the extreme south end of the basement is the music room, designed for rehearsals and robe storage. Sliding doors close off the closet.

The kitchen has been removed from the basement of the old building creating one large dining area. Folding doors make it possible to divide the room into three sections for use by the adult Sunday School.

The new building has plastered walls, tile floors, acoustical ceilings, and for the most part, indirect lighting. Plug-ins make a telephone available where it is most required in both the old and new structures.

The sanctuary was redecorated earlier this year by Schanbacher of Springfield. The walls are in a pale blue and carpeting is carnation red. The altar has been moved to the East and is centered with choir seating on either side.



Rear View of the Educational Building

The dedication program contains scores of acknowledgements, but cannot begin to show the thousands of hours of volunteer labor that went into the building.

'The end product', Rev. Kuhlenschmidt said, 'represents a great return for each dollar expended'."

Even though the United Church of Christ was formed in 1957, our congregation did not officially change the name until 1964. It was voted to change from our present name First Evangelical & Reformed Church to First E. & R. United Church of Christ.

In March 1965, we voted to purchase the property across the alley southeast of the church.

The Ninetieth Anniversary of our church was celebrated in November, 1966. With this service we had paid our indebtedness on our new building and the Note-Burning was observed.

The congregation voted to remodel the front steps of the church in April, 1967. Before the year closed that indebtedness was retired. The three houses on the southeast corner lot were removed and this area was made into a parking lot.

The congregation experienced a joyful working together when they held their first God's Portion Sale at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Morgenstern. Many members brought new and used articles, antiques, livestock, crops, handmade articles, etc. All items were sold at a public auction. The sale was a great success. Many acquaintances of members of the congregation were made and much fellowship was enjoyed. The following fall the second sale was enjoyed.

New hymnals for the sanctuary were purchased as memorials and living memorials by individual members of the congregation.

At the annual business meeting in January, 1969, the congregation voted to purchase the Fox property on Walnut Street next to our parking lot and also the Hammond property west of the church. At a special meeting in April 1969, we voted to purchase the Petry property adjoining the Hammond lot. These two lots were to be the future site of the new parsonage. New violet choir robes were also purchased this year.

In 1970, the church fell heir to part of the estate of Mrs. Lena Rhodes. Part of this was applied to the debt on the new parsonage under construction. A portion was set aside as a memorial for the church.

Mrs. Lena Rhodes

Another big accomplishment for the year was the complete repair of the outside west wall of the church and also the plastering of the interior west wall and the bell tower ceiling.

Church Parsonage, 1976

Rev. Fieker's report in the Annual Yearbook of 1970 explains some of the results of hard work and working together of our members in the building of the new parsonage. Below is part of his report:

> "The new parsonage is very nearly completed at this time. It has been a lot of hard work for many of us. But there is a great sense of satisfaction in our having accomplished this task, and it is truly one in which we may all take pride. You, the members of this congregation, have been a witness to the community in the way in which you have worked together on this project. A pastor friend of mine in Du Quoin just mentioned to me yesterday, how he could see our congregation as one of the most solid in the community. He was speaking in terms of our ability to stand in unity and work together. This is what makes the church a meaningful experience to all of us."

This article appeared in the Call Monday, March 22, 1971:

> "Members of the First United Church of Christ dedicated their new parsonage during the 10:30 Sunday morning services and held an open house for well over 500 visitors during the afternoon. Dr. Robert F. Tormohlen, Conference minister of Illinois South Conference, brought the morning dedicatory message. Former pastor, Rev. Wm. B. Weltge also participated in the service.
>
> Construction on the new parsonage, already occupied by the Rev. Fred Fieker family, was begun May 1, 1970, with much labor being done by the pastor and congregation members. . . . . .
>
> Working committees were:
>
> Planning - Kathryn Anderson, Chairman, Dorothy Berger, Maynard Suhre, Edd Mazure, Otto Blum, Henry Hirsch; Building - William Kunkel, Chairman, Clara Jane Smith, Henry Hirsch, Otto Blum, and Louise Norris; Decorating - Clara Jane Smith, Chairman, Sharon Petry, Carolyn Fieker, Charlene Bigham, Judy Cook, and Louise Norris; Finance - Henry Keiner, Chairman, Margaret Adams, Floy Anderson, Thomas Threewitt, and Robert Payne.
>
> Local clergymen visiting during the afternoon included Rev. Kathryn Player, Rev. Judson Souers, and Rev. W. S. Erwin."

The parsonage was designed by Otto Blum and Maynard Shure. The construction was supervised by Mr. Blum.

Later in the year the old parsonage was purchased by the Andy Jolley family and was moved 3 blocks south to 208 West South Street. The parsonage lot adjoining the church was then graded and landscaped in memory of Henry H. Schickedanz.

We enlarge our circle of concern during the year with support of missions beyond the local church. The F.U.N.D. program of Illinois South Conference was supported through the (10 for 10 club) by some of the families of our church. There has also been a great deal of enthusiasm shown toward adopting residents in our local nursing home who have no one to remember them on special occasions.

By the end of 1972, our church building was in excellent condition. The educational building had been reroofed and the sanctuary had been completely redecorated as well as much of the educational building.

Again in 1973, we unloaded a burden. The indebtedness on the parsonage was completely paid in full. This was made possible by the fine cooperation of all of our church members. One might say, we were literally "sitting pretty" in more ways than one. New pew cushions were purchased this summer and were dedicated in October.

In the first months of 1974 (a few times when the snow was blowing) a committee was meeting regularly to study and review plans for air-conditioning. With approval from the congregation, the Council proceeded with the contract. McDaniels of Pinckneyville installed units to cool the sanctuary and dining hall at a cost of $11,173.00. This was all made possible because a generous sum of money bequeathed by Mrs. Lena Rhodes. We also resurfaced our three parking lots this year.

As we went into 1975 we were preparing for our 100th birthday, Many things must be in order. The wood trim on the outside of the entire building was painted, mostly by volunteer help. The art glass windows were repaired at a cost of $5,876.00. A new projector was purchased. New carpeting was laid in the choir loft. The pews which had been purchased in 1912, when the first church was remodeled and have been

in the balcony, were completely refinished. (The men's hat racks are still under those same pews). New carpeting was also installed in the balcony and down the stairway. Our Tower Chime Carillon system was installed in November and sends out heavenly inspired music to our community as well as to our congregation.

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
20 South Hickory Street
Du Quoin, Illinois

CENTENNIAL SUNDAY 10:30 A.M. January 11, 1976
Paraments Red

****

"If you would save your life, then you must choose to give away your life, for what you lose. . .out at the end of time is what you win! Aim for heaven and earth will be thrown in!"

PRELUDE: *"What A Friend We Have In Jesus"* - Hughes

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN No. 282 *"Faith of Our Fathers"*

*CALL TO WORSHIP by the Minister

*INVOCATION (In Unison)

*GLORIA PATRI

SCRIPTURE READING: Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 3:14-21
Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:9-15

ANTHEM: *"With Praise and Glory"*
("Mit Preis und Ruhm" taken from a choir book belonging to M. Weinberg*)*

PASTORAL PRAYER
Prayer response No. 501 "Hear Our Prayer"

*HYMN No. 322 *"The Church's One Foundation"*

CENTENNIAL MESSAGE: "The Cause Between God and Us"
By Dr. William Koshewa, Conference Minister of the Illinois South Conference of the United Church of Christ.

OFFERTORY: *"Nun Danket Alle Gott"*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND LORD'S PRAYER
Vater Unser . . . Mrs. Marie Gallmeister

A LITANY OF PRAISE AND DEDICATION:

*HYMN: *"Blest Be the Tie that Binds"*

*BENEDICTION:
GO IN THE PEACE OF CHRIST.
THIS SERVICE IS ENDED.
BUT HIS MINISTRY HAS JUST BEGUN AGAIN. AMEN.

*THREEFOLD AMEN

*POSTLUDE: *"O God, Our Help In Ages Past"* - Wilson

CENTENNIAL VESPER SERVICE

5:30 P.M. January 11, 1976

****

PRELUDE: *"Living For Jesus"* - Lowden

RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

*CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively):

*INVOCATION (in unison):

GRANT, O FATHER, THAT WE MAY COME THIS EVENING
WITH MINDS THAT CAN BE TAUGHT,
WITH WILLS THAT CAN BE MOLDED,
WITH HEARTS THAT CAN BE WARMED,
AND WITH SPIRITS THAT CAN BE FILLED.

ANTHEM: *"Our God and We"*

CENTENNIAL CANDLE-LIGHTING CEREMONY:
Narrator, Mrs. Mildred Hirsch

"Gratitude" **Mrs. Mary Hirsch** **First Decade**
May the candle of Gratitude make us glow with pride in the rich heritage of our church and remind us at all times to:
Count our many blessings, Name them one by one, Count our many blessings - To see what God has done.

"Love" **Mrs. Felitza Johnson** **Second Decade**
May our Heavenly Father kindle love enough to move us to be useful, helpful, and kind to others - not only our friends, but also our enemies, for:
Where Love is, there is God.

"Joy" **Mr. Henry Hirsch** **Third Decade**
May the Great Teacher help us discover that true Joy is not in things. It is wholly within ourselves and flames highest when we do good works in His Service.

"Charity" **Mr. Lawrence Keiner** **Fourth Decade**
May it render warmth enough to feel the good in ourselves and to know it is present in each of God's creatures.

"Reverence" **Miss Kathryn Anderson** **Fifth Decade**
May its glow lead us to earnest prayer - enough to know that our Holy Father warms His Hands at man's heart when man is Praying.

"Faith" **Mr. Leonard Norris** **Sixth Decade**
May its radiance shine up to our Master and more fully grasp that if we do the best we can for Him, we can leave the ourcome to Him. He will take care of us.

"Forgiveness" **Mrs. Judy Cook** **Seventh Decade**
May its radiance lead us to discover fully the truth of Christ's words: "Forgive and Ye shall be Forgiven."

"Peace" **Mrs. Jane Bird** **Eighth Decade**
May its gentle glow help us to realize that Blessed Peace does not come from conflict, but from the ability to cope with it as our Redeemer did.

"Tolerance" **Mr. John Henderson** **Ninth Decade**
May our Great Creator assist us in growing high enough to see over the fences that divide the human race into compartments.

"Hope" **Miss Shelly Kunkel** **Tenth Decade**
May it keep alive within us the spark of reassurance - enough to remember that with the help of our Redeemer, nothing is impossible.

As these Glowing candles, each standing beautiful, tall and aflame give out warmth and radiance, let us too, combine our individual God-like qualities. Let us follow the Gleam of the Greatest Torch, held aloft by our Redeemer.

Escorts: Mr. Allen Rogers and Mr. Larry Higgerson

*LITANY OF RE-AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH:

PASTORAL PRAYER

BENEDICTION:
Beloved brethren. . .
Go in peace,
Love the brethren,
Pray without ceasing,
Be of good courage,
Keep the faith,
and
Be filled with the Spirit.

****

FELLOWSHIP DINNER - Church dining Hall - January 11, 1976
Lighting of the Birthday Cake by the children and Rev. Fieker

****

Re-enactment of First Congregational Meeting:

Scene: Home of Julius Lewedag, Du Quoin, Illinois

Date: January 16, 1876.

Council characters portrayed by:

Pastor Kaufman - Paul Miller
Charles Weinberg - Jeff Collins
Chris Hummel - Donald Harsy
Julius Lewedag - Allen Rogers
Adolph Berger - Brad Berger
Jacob Sutter - Jake Sutter
Conrad Kunkel - Donald Kunkel
Fred Ellis - Larry Higgerson
August Eichorn - Thomas Threewitt
John Heberer - Gary Galloway
George Croessmann - Fred Foster
George Kraus - Ronald Ritter
Heinrich Henke - Daniel Uhles
Johannes Hoefle (John Hafley) - Robert Payne
Charles Seibert - Wayne Bigham
Mrs. Lewedag - Charlene Bigham
Lewedag's Daughter - Barbie Anderson

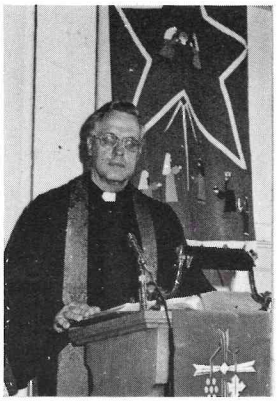
****

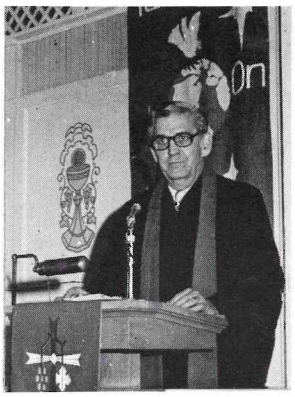
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - Church Sanctuary

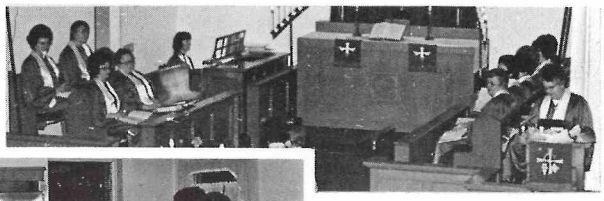
****

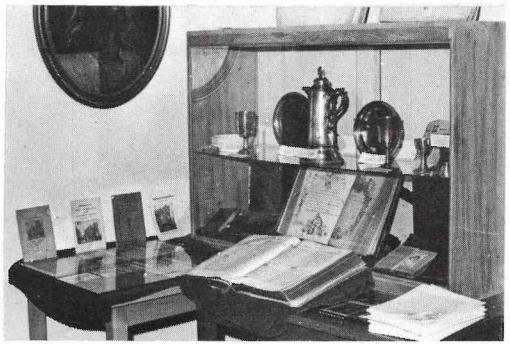
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Pastor - Rev. Fred Fieker
Organist - Mrs. Marla Uhles
Choir Director - Mr. Lynn Wellman
Greeters - Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller
Mr. Olin Galloway and Mrs. Floy Anderson
Ushers - Morning service: Bernard Ritter, Harry Huite, Robert Payne, Jr., Brad Berger.
Vesper service: Herman Hirsch, Godfrey Kunkel, Tom Threewitt, Harry Huite.
Centennial registers - Miss Barbara Anderson
Miss Wendy Speers
Food and table arrangements - Fellowship Class.
Birthday cake - Mrs. Jane Bird, Mrs. Peggy Luthy.
Bulletin - Mr. Gene Gallmeister and daughter, Miss Jean Gallmeister
Displays - Mr. John Winter
Typing - Miss Louise Parker
Vespers altar arrangement - Mrs. Bernard Ritter. The top of the altar was made by Mr. John Winter from poplar wood taken from the old Sutter Church.









PASTORS

From the beginning, the German Evangelical Church required much from its pastors in the way of education and training. Through the years this church has been blessed with not only educated, but with consecrated, dedicated ministers who have led not only their local church, but have been leaders in the community and the church conference as well.

In 1875, Rev. Kaufman, then pastor of the Pinckneyville German Evangelical Church, felt there was a need for a church for the German Protestant families in the Du Quoin community. After some effort he found there were some 19 families interested in such a church. By January of 1876 enough interest had been aroused that an official organizational meeting was held, with 14 members present. Rev. Kaufman began holding services in a public school, started the official church record book baptized a number of the new congregation's children and soon had an active church going. He recommended that the church acquire a pastor of its own, and in May of 1876, Rev. J. Kramer was called to be the first full time minister

Rev. H. Mohr

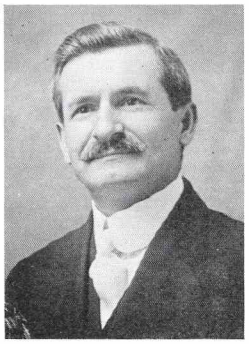
Under the leadership of Rev. Kramer the church continued to grow. Plans were soon made for a new church building. A site was acquired where our church presently stands, and before the end of 1876 a small new frame church building was erected. In the church record book, in a meticulously beautiful script, entries by Rev. Kramer show that he baptized some 98 children during his pastorate. These baptisms took place in various locations besides the Du Quoin community; some being in Lick Creek (Williamson County), some in Lenzburg, some in Du Bois, and many showing simply "Im Haus" or (in the home).

Rev. H Siegfried

Rev. Kramer served the church through 1878. After him came a number of ministers who held short pastorates and except for the church record book and a few pictures, no other information remains. The book shows the record as follows: Rev. B.A. John, 1879; Rev. F. Seybold, 1880; Rev. H. Mohr, 1880-1882; Rev. N. Kuch, 1883; Rev. H. Siegfried, 1883-1889: Rev. H. Walz, 1889-1892; Rev. P. Bruckner, 1892-1896; Rev. E. Durand, 1896-1897. Some of the older members of the congregation remember being told the Rev. Durand was the "red-headed preacher" and that he often visited the Adolph Hahn home when he served the Sutter Church.

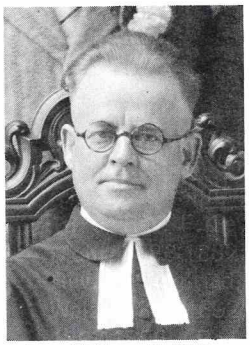
Rev. E. Durand

As the community and the congregation continued to grow, it was better able to sustain a minister and his family, and we enter a period from this time forward of longer pastorates. Rev. Karl Friebe was called to the church in 1898 and served the church until 1917, a period of 19 years. Many of our older members were baptized or confirmed by Rev. Friebe. Some recollections of Rev. Friebe: he always wore black, had an artificial leg, played the organ or piano and led the singing all at the same time, used to rent a horse and buggy from the livery stable and went to the Sutter church to preach. He and his wife had no children. Rev. Friebe lived a long, active life, past the age of 90, and died not many years ago in Brighton, Illinois.


Rev. Karl Friebe

Rev. William B. Weltge was called to the church in the Fall of 1917. Although single at that time, he soon after married Elsie Nedringhaus of St. Louis. To this union five children were born into the Du Quoin community. First was Ruth, now Mrs. Carl Rasche, whose husband is administrator of Deaconess Hospital in St. Louis, Next was Carl, now an engineer with Conoco Oil Co. of Ponca City, Oklahoma. Dorothy, next, married a minister and resides in Warren, Michigan, as Mrs. Walter Zink. Wilford, whom we remember as Bill, is now a Surgeon in Ohio. Last was Ralph, who entered the ministry and now serves in the Church Denominational office in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Rev. and Mrs. Weltge served this church until February of 1936, when he was called to St. Luke's church in St. Louis. He was pastor until retirement, then was pastor emeritus until death in 1972. Mrs. Weltge is now in a nursing home in St. Louis.

In early 1929, the plans for a new church building were presented to the congregation. The plan and design of our present sanctuary, which we presently admire and enjoy, has been attributed to Rev. Weltge's leadership and inspiration. Rev. Weltge was a Scoutmaster and encouraged the Boy Scout movement in Du Quoin. He was also a leader in administering the Relief Program during the depression years of the early 30's. Rev. Weltge was the last of our pastors who could preach in German, and it was during his pastorate that German services were held less and less, until at his departure they were completely done away with. The church record books show this transition where Rev. Weltge's very neat and legible script changed from German to English. At his departure in 1936 he had served the church for over 18 years.


Rev. William B. Weltge

Rev. John H. Mauthe was the next pastor to be called to this church. He and Mrs. Mauthe and daughter Doris Lea came here from Evansville, Illinois, in April, 1936. In June, 1938, another daughter, Lois Jean, was born. Mrs. Mauthe now resides in St. Louis as do both Doris Lea and Lois. Doris Lea is now Mrs. Don Etherton, and is the mother of three children, Don, Denise, and Douglas. Lois is now Mrs. George Krieger, mother of two, Steven and Amy. Rev. Mauthe passed away in 1961.

Rev. John H. Mauthe

Although the new church building was built in 1929, it was not until Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 1944, that the church became debt free; a time of great rejoicing for Rev. Mauthe and his congregation.

Rev. Mauthe is well remembered by most of the congregation. He is perhaps best remembered for the traditional 6:00 a.m. Christmas candlelight service. Rev. Mauthe spent many hours each Christmas season arranging the blue lights and candles for this service, because everything had to be exactly right. He also established a traditional Good Friday service and many can remember when the church was filled to capacity for this service. Rev. Mauthe was a pulpit-pounder and shouter in his sermons. He outwardly supported Thomas O'Keefe for sheriff from the pulpit, and was instrumental in helping the sheriff clean up the vice dens and dispose of the slot machines in Perry County. Rev. Mauthe served this church longer than any other pastor, from April of 1936 to Spring of 1958, a period of 22 years.

Dr. Claude J. Snyder served an interim pastorate for some months after Rev. Mauthe's Resignation.

Rev. Virgil J. Kuhlenschmidt was the next to accept a call to our church. He and his wife, Dorothy, arrived in Du Quoin in April of 1958. Soon after their arrival, a son, John David, joined their family. It was during the Kuhlenschmidt pastorate that the Edcational Building was constructed. He also helped to establish a Spiritual Council in the church and was the first to setup an Under-shepherd system for the congregation. Rev. Kuhlenschmidt left our church in August, 1966, when he was called to a pastorate in Ohio. From there he accepted a charge in a Presbyterian church in Van Buren, Arkansas. He is presently pastor of a church in San Antonio, Tex. After leaving here, a daughter, Terri Lee, was born to the Kuhlenschmidts in 1967.

Rev. Virgil Kulenschmidt

Rev. Malcom Gillespie of Carbondale served as interim pastor from August, 1966 to January 1967.

All of which brings us to our present pastor, Rev. Fred E. Fieker, a nephew of Rev. W.B. Weltge, who was called to this church from Walnut, Iowa in January, 1967. Rev. Fieker and his wife, Carolyn, have three children: Daniel, Sarah and Jon. Carolyn is a graduate of the Deaconess Hospital School of Nursing. Daniel is now a student at St. Louis College of Pharmacy. Sarah is a high school student, and Jon is a sixth grader. A short time after Pastor Fieker's arrival here, a new entrance way to the front of the church was designed and built. Later, a new parsonage was constructed. Much of the work and planning of the home came from the pastor himself. A couple of years ago it was decided that the church sanctuary needed painting. The bid price was felt to be too high, so the pastor proceeded to do the work with local help (most of it his own) by borrowing scaffolding to reach the ceiling and rafters. All the pews were taken up and the whole sanctuary was painted around the existing gold leaf and emblems.

Rev. Fred E. Fieker

Pastor Fieker has been active in work for the Illinois South Conference. He has also been involved locally in the Ministerial Alliance, Marshall Browning Hospital, Perry County HELP and other activities. His hobbies are gardening and woodworking (with grandfather clock cabinetry as his specialty).

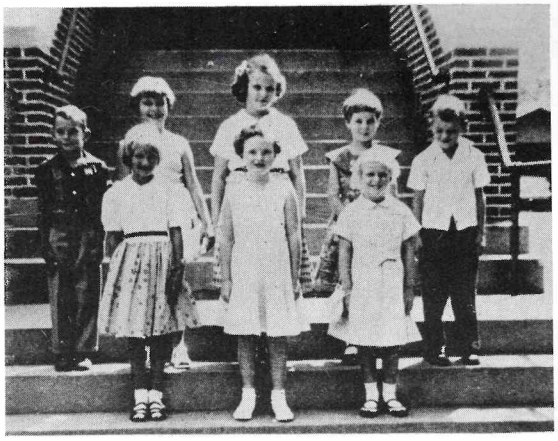
So, the statistics show that this church had nine pastors in the 21 years from 1876 to 1897 and five pastors in the 79 years from 1897 to the present. From 19 families in 1876 the church has grown to over 200 families and some 430 members.

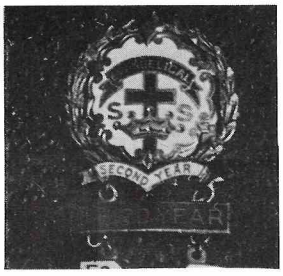
MATTHÄUS VI.

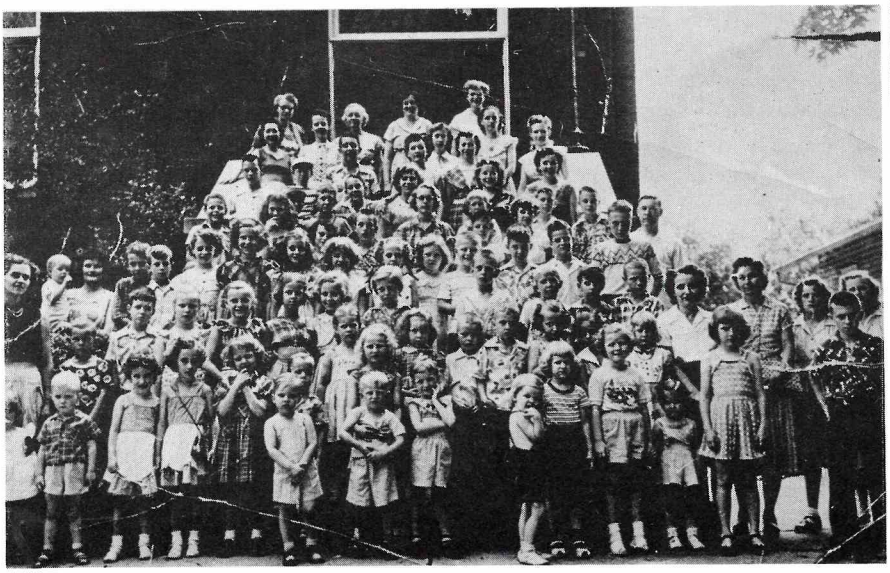
9 Darum ſollt ihr alſo beten: Unſer Vater in dem Himmel. Dein Name werde geheiliget.
10 Dein Reich komme. Dein Wille geſchehe auf Erden, wie im Himmel.

11 Unſer täglich Brod gib uns heute.
12 Und vergib uns unſere Schulden, wie wir unſern Schuldigern vergeben.
13 Und führe uns nicht in Verſuchung, ſondern erlöſe uns von dem Uebel. Denn dein iſt das Reich, und die Kraft, und die Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit. Amen.

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.
10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as *it is* in heaven.
11 Give us this day our daily bread.
12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.




SECOND YEAR



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christian education and spiritual growth have always been foremost in the goals of our congregation. This has been partly accomplished by Sunday School, Confirmation, Vacation Bible School and Bible Study Classes.

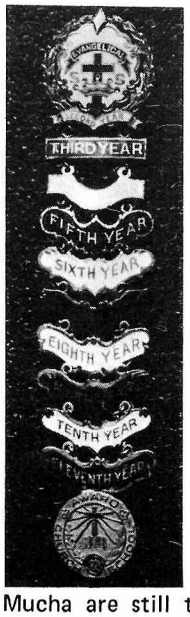
SUNDAY SCHOOL

"The Sunday School of today is the church of tomorrow. All the great ideas which boys and girls will carry with them through life must be wrought into their beings before they are twenty. If they have not adequate ideas of the church, of Christian doctrine and deed, we shall find the church of tomorrow is weak and inefficient". . .Rev. Weltge, from 1931 yearbook.

Many people have served the church school as superintendents, teachers, secretaries, treasurers, and pianists. Records are not complete enough to compile a complete list here, but the Heavenly Father's list is complete.

The first Sunday School class was for children only. Later classes for different age groups were formed. Mr. George Hammann, Sr. taught a class around a pot bellied stove in the church sanctuary. In the Spring of 1921, Rev. W. B. Weltge organized the Adult Bible Class with eight members. By the summer of 1922, the class had one hundred twenty-five members, partly due to a contest.

The 1931 yearbook shows departments at that time as Primary, Junior, Intermediate, and Adult. Rev. Weltge conducted training sessions for all teachers every week. Teachers were expected to attend and a certificate was issued to those who fulfilled their training. The Primary Department at that time met for worship and study in the stage area of the dining hall. A curtain served as a divider and noise was a disturbance at times. The Cradle Roll picture with names of babies of the church was displayed in the Primary room. The present Cradle Roll is in the hall near the nursery. One of the faithful teachers in the Primary Department was Mrs. Annie Miller, who taught for about forty-five years with perfect attendance for twenty-three years.



The Junior, Intermediate and Adult Departments met for worship in the dining hall before going to class. Some classes met in rooms separated by the wood sliding doors that were in the dining hall at one time. Others met in the church balcony, bell tower, front and back pews of the church, the narthex, the Mother's room, the Minister's study and any space available. Many in Sunday School had perfect attendance. They were rewarded with pins for the first year and bars or inserts for additional years. John Mucha was a teacher in the Junior-Intermediate Department in 1937 and Dorothy Franklin (Mucha) was a teacher in the Junior Department in 1938. Mr. and Mrs. Mucha are still teaching, Dorothy in Primary and John the Men's Class.

One of the former classes of the Church School was the Friendship Bible Class. It was originally part of the Adult Bible Class. The ladies decided to form a class of their own with a lady teacher and it was first called the Ladies' Bible Class. Mrs. Charles (Emma) Grills was chosen as teacher. The first officers were Mrs. Albert Appuhn, president, Mrs. Earnest Mann, vice president, and Mrs. Louis Young, secretary. In May, 1930, Mrs. Young resigned as secretary to teach a class and her office was filled by Mrs. Prentice (Floy) Anderson. During the year 1930, the class pledged themselves to pay for the altar and pulpit, three hundred dollars each. The class presented the Ladies Aid with a full set of silverware, twelve dozen of each. They purchased new carpet for the sanctuary when the church was remodeled. Mrs. Grills served as teacher for the class until her death at age seventy-six. She started teaching when she was about sixteen years of age,and was also a public school teacher in her earlier years. In 1963, a memorial trust fund was established for Mrs. Grills and the income from the fund is to be used to further Christian leadership training. Mrs. Agatha Croessmann was the next teacher. She said that often the members took turns teaching. The class was disbanded in January, 1966.

The Men's Bible Class was also formed when the Adult Bible Class was divided. The first officers listed were George Beck, Sr., president, Conrad Schickedanz, vice-president, Fred Emling, secretary-treasurer. Some of the teachers have been V. G. Croessmann, Fred Emling, Rev. W. B. Weltge, Rev. John Mauthe, Robert Miller, Virgil Lindner, and John Mucha. The Men's Class at one time met in the front pews of the church across the aisle from the Ladies' Class.

The Philathea Class was organized October 1, 1933 as the Junior Ladies' Class. The name was later changed to Philathea which means love. The first teacher was Mrs. Carl Huff. First officers were Mrs. Louis Young, president, Mrs. Ivan Collins, vice president and Miss Loretta Bigelow, secretary. Those who have served as teachers are Mrs. John Mauthe, Mrs. Emil Kromat, Mrs. Louis Young, Mrs. Betty Eisen, and Mrs. Floy Anderson. The class has always met in the kitchen of the church for the lesson. Some of the events the class has enjoyed are Halloween parties, Christmas dinners at the home of Mrs. Dan Hammann, picnics at Riverside Park in Murphysboro, when they went on Mr. James Frederick's bus, and also the trip by bus to Bloomington to see the Passion Play. They have made many contributions to the church and community. They have made hospital robes, confirmation robes, rolled war, cancer and leper bandages.

Another very active group is the Fellowship Class which was first called the Treue Glieder (Faithful Member). It was organized about 1940 and the name was changed about 1950. The 1940 yearbook lists Mrs. Norbeth Koonce as teacher, Mrs. Gladys Page, president, Mrs. Virginia Metten, vice president, and Mrs. Evelyn Theobald, secretary. Past teachers were Mrs. Koonce, Caroline Greer, Mrs. John Mauthe, Mrs. Helen Norris, Mrs. Geta Henderson, and the present teacher is Kathryn Anderson. The class at one time met in the northwest corner of the sanctuary and now meets in the stage area of the dining hall. They meet once a month for a pot luck dinner and social. Their Mother and Daughter banquets have been very enjoyable occasions. The class has served many suppers for the

church and other organizations, had rummage and bake sales, made apple butter, and many other projects. They have enjoyed trips to Bloomington to see the Passion Play and to Carbondale to see the Ice Capades.

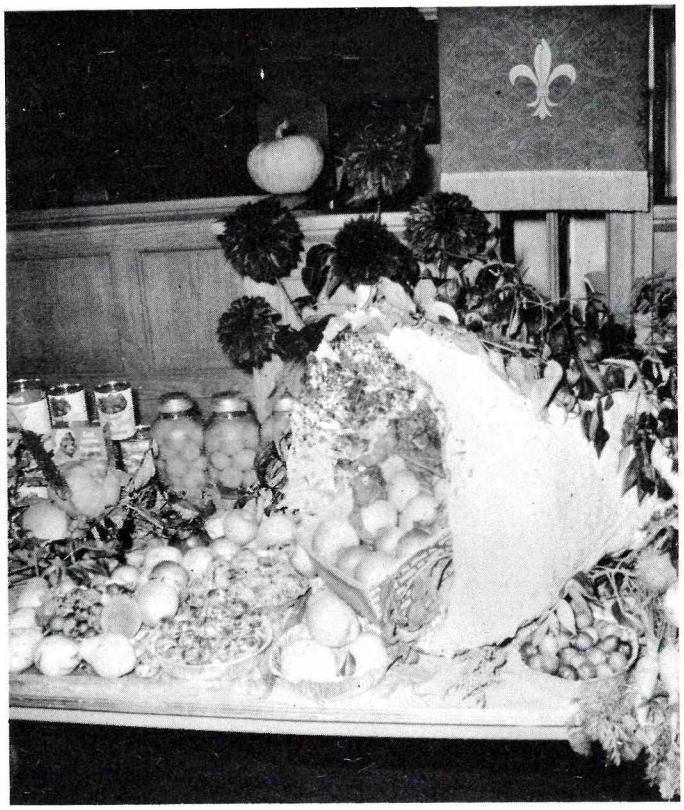
In October, 1961, the Couple's Class held its first meeting. By November there were twenty-three members. Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Huckshold were the teachers. On February 11, 1962, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Smith were elected treasurer and Mr. and Mrs. Gene Gibner secretary. On December 12, 1971, the name was changed to Willing Workers so single persons would feel free to join the class. After the Hucksholds moved away, different members took turns teaching. The present faithful teacher is Harold Smith. The class has enjoyed social meetings, such as, "This is Your Life" in honor of the Hucksholds, the pontoon boat rides on the Lake of Egypt, picinics at Bertha and Owen Norris' cabin, hickory nut hunts, picinics at Mr. and Mrs. John Winter's cabin, Christmas suppers, and caroling. Mr. and Mrs. John Winter host a "Chicken Pickin" party in preparation for the chicken and dumpling supper.

The only local interdenominational Sunday School class for mentally retarded children was started at United Church of Christ about 1963, sponsored by the Perry County Association for Mentally Retarded. Rev. Virgil Kuhlenschmidt was a great help to the group and parents. The Fellowship Class gave up their class room for this special class as it had an outside entrance and a rest room near. Mrs. Clara Brown, a very capable and interested woman, volunteered to be the teacher. The children enjoyed her many flannelgraphs and devoted efforts. There were no public school classes then for trainable children. They were quite difficult at times, but having a Sunday School class really helped them and helped the parents maybe even more. After several of the children enrolled at Bowen Center, Harrisburg, Illinois, and other places, the class was discontinued. Rev. Fieker has continued to help the Perry County Association, which has sponsored a camp for exceptional children at the DuBois Camp for four or five years. Many of the Sunday School classes have contributed to the camp.

The latest class to be formed is the Pairs and Spares in April, 1970. Rev. Fieker teaches this class. The first officers were Wayne Bigham, president, and Jean Reidelberger, secretary-treasurer. The church office is their class room. Projects of the class have been three pancake breakfasts, the proceeds of which helped send nineteen retarded children to camp at DuBois Center, a bake sale with proceeds donated to the Linda Hickem television fund. The class bought new toys for the nusery and has sponsored a hayride, weiner roast, and several parties for the children's Sunday School classes. They have also given several parties for the residents of Miller Shelter Care Home in Du Quoin.

While the new educational building was being built and the church remodeled, some of the children's classes were conducted in the houses that were on what is now the south parking lot. With the coming of the new educational building, also came new ideas, teaching materials, more room, new classes and the formation of the Christian Education Committee. The new United Church of Christ curriculum was introduced to the church school. About ten people attended leadership training classes at Marion for several sessions. The new curriculum was tried and used by some classes for a while, but the adult classes soon returned to the Uniform Series, as later did the others.

Through the years, many activities have taken place. Very elaborate Christmas pageants were presented in the first church on Christmas Eve. In the earliest times, a huge Christmas tree was erected in front of the sanctuary and decorated with ornaments imported from Germany, home-baked cookies and candles. At one time it was the custom for the children to join hands and walk around the tree singing "O Tannenbaum" in German. After many years, the Christmas program was changed to a Sunday before Christmas instead of on Christmas Eve and was sometimes given in the dining hall. The earlier offerings taken at the program were sent to the Hoyleton Children's Home. Many church members recall with nostalgia the prize sack of goodies they received at Christmas . . .the sweetest oranges, apples, chocolate drops, candy and nuts they ever tasted.



Fall Harvest Home Festival

The Fall Harvest Home Festival has been a tradition for many years. The fruits, vegetables, and canned goods are always sent to the Hoyleton Children's Home.

The annual Sunday School Picnic was a big occasion that was looked forward to an enjoyed. Picnics have been held at Walker's Grove, Seibert's Grove, the West Park School, the Du Quoin Fairgrounds, DuBois Center, and probably other places. It was the custom at one time to give each person tickets for sodas and ice cream. There have usually been well filled dinner baskets, ball games, visiting and vesper services.

At times in the past, tribute has been paid on Mother's Day to the oldest and youngest Mother, and sometimes the Mother with the youngest child or the one with the most children.

At one time, the young men of the church had soft ball and basketball teams and competed with other local teams; One basketball team, which called itself "The Eves" (Evangelical), was a power house.

BIBLE SCHOOL

We do not know when Vacation Bible School was started but the 1935 yearbook shows a disbursement for milk for Daily Vacation Bible School in the amount of $9.75. Some people remember making tie racks, bird houses, and cutting boards at Bible School. Unfortunately, records indicate little activity until 1951 when Rev. Mauthe, and interested parents, revived the Bible School. Mrs. Mauthe led the singing and the children really enjoyed the catchy motion songs. For some of the closing programs the children presented puppet shows to show what they had been doing in Bible School. Although each church had its own Bible School, a combined parade, down Main Street and back to the park for refreshments, was held to promote interest. Rev. Kuhlenschmidt's pastors report for June, 1961, lists two "firsts":

A. The Junior High class filmed part of the "Life of Christ" and played the parts. They enjoyed dressing in costumes and journeying to Ralph and Sue Crain's garage to portray Christ in the carpenter shop, and to the City Lake to portray the baptism of Christ by John and the calling of the disciples to be Fishers of Men. Rev. Kuhlenschmidt took the slide pictures. The class recorded the speaking parts to go with the slides and presented the "Life of Christ" as their part of the closing program for the parents.

B. A Bible School newspaper was published to let others know what was happening at Bible School.

One year a Junior High class went to Bald Knob for a sunrise service just for their class. It was a very impressive service with each child going off alone for meditation, then coming back as a group. It was cloudy and thunder was rumbling but, as they were having their devotional, the sun broke thru the clouds to fit with the thought of the devotion. In 1974, we joined the Methodist church for a combined Bible School. In 1975, the Methodist, the Christian and we met together in our church. Rev. Fieker led the singing and the children enjoyed it very much.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH
EVANGELICAL-REFORMED-BIBLE SCHOOL
The Word of Life
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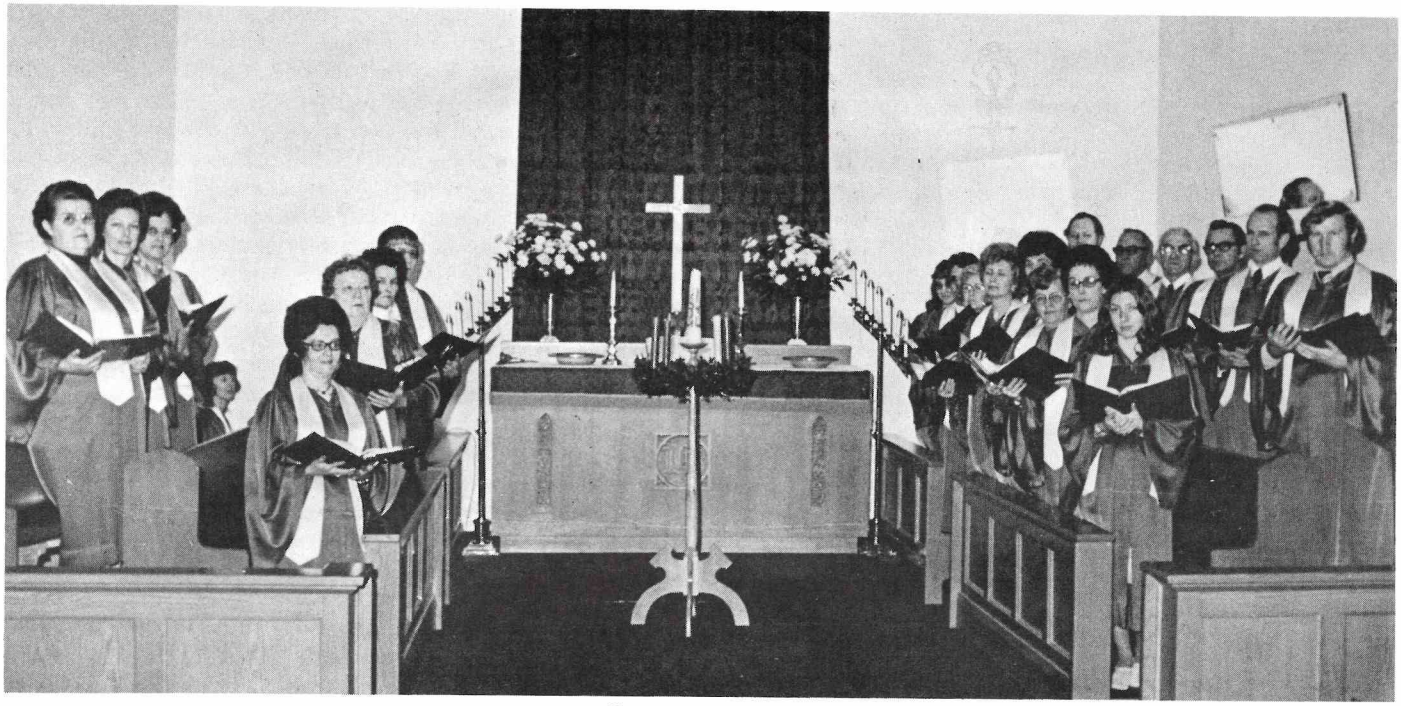


Church Choir 1976

Someone once said that a church might be compared to an orchestra. The different organizations working in our church can be likened to the different sections that blend their efforts to produce heavenly music while the Divine Conductor calls the tune.

We shall herein list some of these sections.

MUSIC

The Chancel Choir has ever given added beauty and inspiration to the regular and the special services. Love of singing is inherent in the German people and throughout the history, no matter how humbly or richly blessed we have been with trained musicians, voices have ascended, in German and in English, to the Glory of God. The present choir (pictured above), under the directorship of Mr. Lynn Wellman and accompanied by Mrs. Marla Uhles, has greatly enhanced our services.

The church organs, ranging from simple to grand in structure, have contributed greatly to the worship services. A history notation states that the Frauen Verein paid $9.95 for an organ in 1876. Later another organ was purchased for $150.00. Some of our older present members fondly recall a hand-pumped organ. Concealed behind a screen, a church member, most of the time a youth, vigorously worked with the pump. For this service, he received 10¢ per Sunday in the earliest days. One church member recalls George Hammann, Jr., who initiated the research for this history book, peeking out from behind this screen from time to time to grin at familiar faces in the congregation. In 1912 the first pipe organ, brought to town by freight, was installed.

Organists practiced, accompanied, and directed for many hours for little or no pay. Earliest records name Lena Weinbers, Helena Beck Horn, Anna Beck Emling, and Minnie Croessmann Marlow.

Other organists who contributed time and talents so generously were Mesdames Virginia Appuhn Yates, Nancy Ralls Hirsch, and Dorothy Kuhlenschmidt; Misses Barbara Theobald and Joan Anderson; Messers Don Marler, Wilfred Delphin, and William Hurst.

Minnie Marlow

Lena Weinberg

Ann Emling

Lena Beck

It is fitting that special tribute be accorded to a lady whose dedicated and devoted service to music and to church spanned a half century. Minnie Croessmann was barely past 12 years of age when she dared to board the Illinois Central train once each week to study voice and organ under Professor Lederman in Centralia, Illinois. This began her long career of faithfully working with young and old, with solos, duets, choirs, in German and in English, playing whatever instrument was there, often adding her beautiful, trained voice to produce music for her beloved church. When a funeral was held during the weekdays, Mrs. Marlow summoned her "Dead Choir." Agatha Croessmann, now 93 years of age, related that this was a quartette of four housewives (always available), Mesdames Mary Theobald, Emma Grills, Mayme Sims and Agatha herself, who then donned their white, starched waists and trailing black skirts, and came to sing a comforting hymn or two.

Mrs. Marlow had, as she expressed it, only one major concern during the days of the pump organ. She was not at all times sure she would produce sound when she touched the keys. The tired pumper, alone in his cubby hole behind the screen, sometimes became drowsy and fell asleep. The Du Quoin Evening Call gives this account of her Special Day of Recognition:

> "On June 25, 1943, the organist of the First Evangelical and Reformed Church was recognized for her years of service when Rev. John Mauthe, pastor, called Mrs. Dwight T. Marlow from the organ console during the morning worship and congratulated her for faithful service. On behalf of the church, he presented to her a corsage and 25 silver dollars. She then enjoyed the rare privilege of sitting with the congregation, while Miss Bertha Malzahn sang "My Task," with Miss Virginia Appuhn, who played for the rest of the service, at the organ. As a girl, Mrs. Marlow played her first church service when the Rev. Friebe was pastor . . ."

Later Mrs. Marlow "musically adopted" four girls who had just been confirmed. For years she worked patiently with them and implanted in them great knowledge and ability in singing. An unusually close relationship developed amongst them and their beloved Mrs. Marlow. In place of the "Dead Choir" of former years, Pauline Schickedanz Watson, Alene Metten Fox, Florence Croessmann Van Haaften, and Bertha Malzahn Darsham came, whenever needed to sing at weddings, funerals, and special holidays and to be a part of the Chancel Choir.

OUR MEN

Playing a vital role in the life of our church was The Men's Brotherhood. Through the efforts of Rev. William Weltge and George M. Thompson, president of the Southern Illinois Federation of Evangelical Brotherhoods, all male members of our church were invited to a meeting in September, 1934. A good representation assembled, then voted to form a Brotherhood, which was to meet on the third Wednesday of each month. Charles Croessmann was elected president to lead the group in seeking to fulfill its objectives: "To unite all the male members of the parish for the promotion of the Kingdom of God in the local organization, the community, the denomination, and the world at large, by means of information, inspiration, fellowship, stewardship, and service." Membership was open to all males of eighteen or older, regardless, of church membership. Their gatherings in the years that followed brought stimulation to mind and spirit through Christian duscussion, as well as food to the body with refreshments served by rotating teams, at their meetings, at annual Ladies' Night Dinners, at Father-Son banquets, and more informal potlucks, weiner roasts, and picnics. Interest through the years waxed and waned. The Brotherhood is at this writing not in existence.

OUR WOMEN

Although it was not until January 9, 1921, that our Constitution was revised to read: "Every member of the congregation has the right to sit in at the meetings and have a voice of vote. Also women," our distaff members have from the beginning been a powerful section of our church.

The Frauen-Verein (The Women's Guild). As early as 1876, under the leadership of Rev. Kramer, the women members met for the purpose of organizing a Women's Federation. Only a few were aggressive enough in these early times to venture far out of their role. The few that dared, however, were determined and enthusiastic enough to initiate a group called "The Frauen-Verein." The earliest names listed were: Mesdames Smith, Weinberg, Wegerich, Croessmann, Kramer, Heinecke, Schiele, Yehling, Ross, Lewedag, Linze, Kaul, and Misses Vohs and Catherine Heinecke. These ladies immediately set to the job of supplying necessities. After a special collection which yielded $113.30, the ladies purchased:

The first German Bible	$12.00
Lace Tidies	2.25
Stair Carpet	6.50
Stonework on font	5.00
Organ	9.95

The life of this first group was quite short.

In 1880, Rev. Mohr called the women together and encouraged them to revive the Frauen-Verein because he felt it was important to the spiritual welfare. The ladies organized and met once each month in their homes. When Rev. Walz came to minister in 1889, the church was having financial difficulties. Anxious to help, the loyal ladies decided that a supper open to the public might enrich the coffers - perhaps a good German meal might entice the community. They decided to charge 50¢ per person. Having no immediate facilities within the church, they procured the Lyric Hall downtown, above what is today McCollum's Pharmacy. All necessary equipment, including a kerosene stove, and other supplies were carried up the stairs. The town pump on the corner to the East provided water. Thus the first annual supper and bazaar came into being and soon became a very popular event in the life of our church and community. A featured item, difficult and expensive to prepare (a wine was special ordered by Charles Croessmann) was Herring Salad. The recipe exists in the church records..

In 1920 a basement was constructed under the first church and immediately utilized for the annual fall suppers and bazaars which, along with many other money-making projects, provided substantial contributions to the spiritual and material needs of the church. One gift was a pipe organ purchased in 1931. Around 1941, the annual suppers and bazaars as a means of raising money was discontinued. Dues and monetary donations replaced money earned. World War II

added to the pressure and stigma created against the Germans after World War I and "The Frauen-Verein" became "The Women's Guild."

The Martha Sewing Circle was a group of women who gathered to sew and quilt. This organization did not remain active long.

The Kaffee-Klatsch (Coffee-Social), was for many years, a distinctive and enjoyable part of our church history. Not only did the ladies actively "klatsch" (chatter), when they met in their various homes, but they lunched on home-made bread, and Kaffee-Kuchen(coffee cake), lunch meat, cheese, etc. The public was invited. No charge was made for the repast, but on each table was an empty bowl in which each guest placed a donation. When more money was desired the women prepared an evening meal and invited the men, who, they knew, would donate generously. The Charles Croessmann home, conveniently located, became the center for both Kaffee Klatsch and supper for the remaining years of this groups existence.

In 1944, a Girls Guild was organized as a younger department of the Women's Guild. Its purpose was to unite the young ladies of 18 years and older in Christian fellowship and service and to work with them to fulfill this purpose. The first president was Kathryn Anderson who, even at that time, had proved herself a valuable asset to numerous different church and Sunday School groups. Kathryn is to this day a dedicated church worker, worthy of special tribute in our church history. Melita Pflanz was first adviser for the Girl's Guild. This group outgrew its name and became known as the "Junior Women's Guild." Another Girl's Guild was organized by Mrs. Virgie Schickedanz and Mrs. Evelyn Theobald in 1948.

In 1959, all the ladies groups were combined into one Women's Guild. They disbanded in June, 1971, and their responsibilities and financial contributions were assumed by various organized classes.

In 1971, a group of interested women began a Quilting Circle. They bring a sack lunch and work all day on Mondays and Thursdays except during the summer months. They laugh, stitch, embroider, and "klatsch." They have contributed to various funds, including $1,000 toward the new parsonage and quite recently, a refinishing of the two lovely chairs in the narthex.

Quilting Circle, 1976

OUR YOUTH

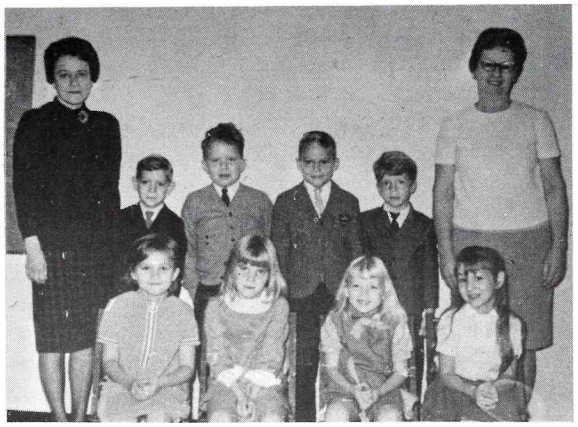
Youthful Christian fellowship and fun are an integral part of the harmonious balance of a church body. No records could be found as to when the young people of the church were first organized. We do have some evidence that they were active sometime after 1912 or maybe before. This Y.P.C.A. (Young People's Christian Association) picture shows that a sizable group was having fun at a picnic around 1914.

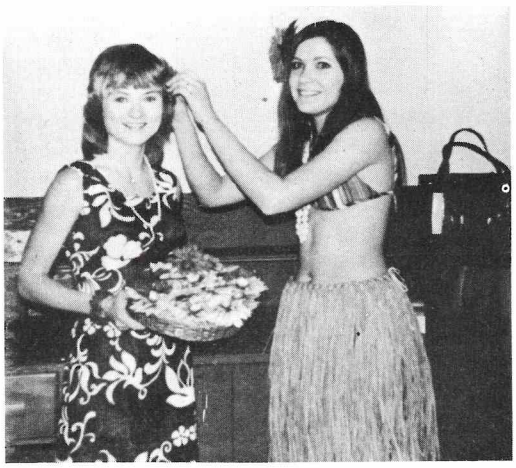
Various youth groups had different names during the ensuing years, such as: Junior League, Christian Endeavor, Senior League, and Youth Fellowship. Their common purpose was to enjoy good times and to work together for their church and for God. Project funds were used to take excursions on the Admiral on the Mississippi, to attend the Passion Play in Bloomington, Illinois, to visit Six Flags near St. Louis, and for bowling, skating, and hay-rides.

A Christian Endeavor report taken from the 1931 Yearbook stressed the value of early church association as it states: "If the church does not get a grip upon a person in youth, it is not likely to get that grip in maturity." Although the younger generation seem not to be active in youth groups, they do possess a dedication to their church and will readily serve when called. This speaks well for them when we view that thay are somewhat disenchanted with our troubled world of today beset by crime and corruption.

A venerable lady, no longer living, set a beautiful pattern for our youth many years ago. Mrs. Amelia Weinberg, on her 95th birthday, was asked why she attended church so faithfully each Sunday when it was obviously very difficult due to her advancing years and increasing deafness. She promptly responded, "I want young people to see me and to know I can make it for the Lord. If I can make it, they certainly can." Quite a lesson!

Y.P.C.A. Picnic, Sunfield, Ill., 1914





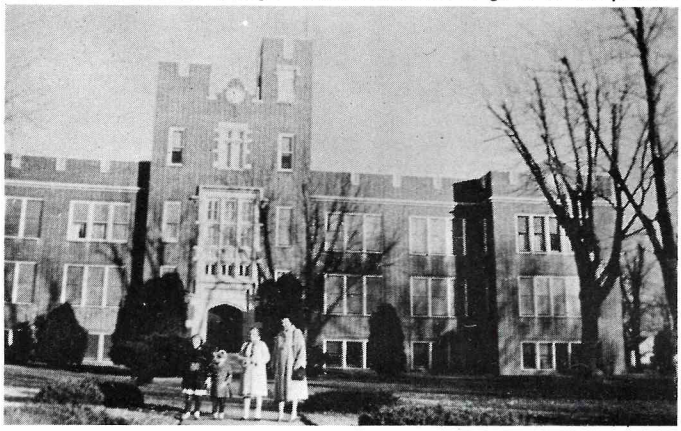
COUNTRY

NORRIS' TRIPLE

OUTREACH

Although our founders were primarily concerned with a church where their children could be nurtured in their particular Christian faith in this community, their hearts have always been open and receptive to help with the needs of others . . .not only in this community, but also around the world.

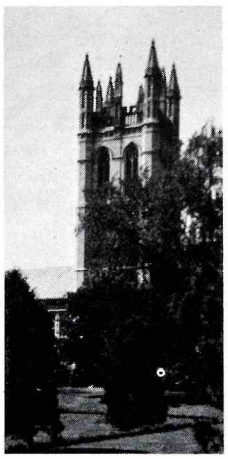
The number of ways which this church has helped others makes a long, impressive, but rather dull reading list, which involves all sorts of things. There have been gifts to Hoyleton



Hoyalton Children's Home

Children's Home for as long as the oldest can remember. The annual Harvest Home Festival of canned fruits and vegetables and garden produce, and the collection at the annual Sunday School children's Christmas program, always went to Hoyleton Home. . .as well as participation in all their special needs and pleas. For years this church had an annual "Blanket" Sunday in which new and used blankets were sent to the needy overseas. Support has always been given to the benevolent institutions of the church; such as, New Athens Nurs-

Du Bois Center



Eden Seminary

ing Home for the Aged, Du Bois Center for the Youth, Eden Seminary (where all our pastors have been trained), Deaconess Hospital in St. Louis, Emmaus Homes for the Handicapped at St. Charles and Marthasville, Missouri, and others. After World War II, those nations which were defeated were showered with gifts to rehabilitate themselves; such as, a heifer project whereby this church furnished and paid the freight to send a young heifer to Germany. Gifts of baby chicks, bees, goats and garden seeds were sent to other countries in need.

The Women's Guild helped to sponsor individual missionaries and had personal contact with them in the way of letters and special visits to Guild meetings, when the missionary was home on furlough.

Although this church has not always met its apportionment for benevolent giving to the Synod or Conference, it has given thousands of dollars for this purpose through the years. Other thousands have been given for special pleas like Neighbors in Need, Share Our Surplus, One Great Hour of Sharing, and Famine Relief for various countries around the world.

The needs of our local community have not fallen on deaf ears. Our pastors have been part of the local Ministerial Alliance since its inception, and the church has always supported Alliance projects. The church has also heard the need

Boy Scouts God & Country Award

Red Cross Blood Program

of Marshall Browning Hospital at various times, and has responded with such as the oxygen fund drive to pipe oxygen into all the individual rooms from one central source. Rev. Weltge was active in the local Orphan's Home, which once stood where Poplar Street runs into Line Street. Organizations of the church have faithfully contributed to local drives of the Red Cross, Cancer, March of Dimes, Heart, and other National fund drive organizations.

The doors of the church building have been opened for the use of Boy Scout troops as their meeting place, and for the Perry County mentally retarded for a Sunday School class to meet. For the past couple of years we have provided the building for the Red Cross Bloodmobile to collect blood from local donors.

Grateful hearts and hands from this church, for all of God's blessings bestowed upon them through the past 100-years, have always humbly tried to be a part of the larger church's effort to render help wherever it has been needed thoughout the world. As the calls have come, so have the people responded, and through their joint efforts have been able to make a noticeable mark for their church.

MEMORIALS & GIFTS

Many gifts of appreciation and loving memorials have added greatly to the beauty and enjoyment of the services, through the years. These included:

Large Art-Glass Window in the narthex-by the entire Sunday School.

Rose-Window over the Altar in the Chancel-by the Sunday School Class taught by Alene Metten.

Three of the Art-Glass Windows in the Sanctuary were given as living memorials by Rev. & Mrs. William B. Weltge, Mr. & Mrs. H.H. Walker, and Mr. & Mrs. William Appuhn.

Other three Art-Glass Windows - in memory of Mr. & Mrs. Frank Emling, Mr. & Mrs. Louis Beck, Mrs. Margaretha Wolf and Mrs. Mary Wolf, John R. Thomas and Mother- by the respective members of their families.

Small windows at each side of the narthex-by the Faithful Workers and Constant Workers Sunday School Classes;

Pulpit light - by the 1929 Confirmation Class.

Altar Cross, which at present is in the Church School devotional center, in memory of Miss Minnie Schmidt- by family.

Pipe Organ - by the Women's Guild.

Baptismal Font - by Mrs. Adelaide G. Dickens.

Two large Chairs in the narthex- by Miss Minnie Keiner, one as a living memorial and the other as a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. George Keiner.

Lectern - by Charles Isherwood, Jr.

Altar Candleholders- by Mrs. Kate Metten in 1929. In 1973 they were sent in by Mr. and Mr. Loren Fox to be re - brassed and dedicated to the memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Metten. These Candleholders along with the Candleholders given more recently by the Henderson family are regularly interchanged between the Church School Devotional Center and the Altar in Chancel.

Large Picture (Christ Knocking at the Door) in narthex- by the Friendship Bible Class.

Guest Register in the narthex- in memory of Arthur Jackson by Mrs. Clara Jackson and Family.

Flower Vase - by the Theobald Family.

Communion Trays - in memory of Mr. and Mrs. William T. Heberer by Family.

Flower Stands - in memory of Mrs. Carl Emling and daughter Marjorie by Mr. Carl Emling and family.

Library Table - by Mrs. Clyde Beasley.

Our Book of Living Memories and Repository Stand - in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Malzahn by the family.

Dishes - by the Philathea Class.

Brass, 7 branch, Floor Candelabra - in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Beck by Mrs. Andrew J. Guerrattaz.

Stairway Carpeting from ground level at south basement to the narthex - in memory of Harold Morgenstern by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Morgenstern.

Light on Lectern - in memory of Emma Weis, by Mr. Adam Weis and Family.

Present Flower Vases - in memory of George Adams and Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Keiner, by Mrs. Margaret Keiner Adams.

Present Altar - in memory of Mr. and Mrs. William Sims by the Children.

Metal Folding Flower Stands - by Keeling Funeral Home.

Lecterns in Sunday School rooms - made by John Winter from parts of the Sutter Church's funiture.

Flower Box in hall - by Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hirsch.

Stage Drapery Curtain in Dining Hall - in memory of Mr. Herman Hirsch Sr., by Mrs. Mary Hirsch and Children.

United Church of Christ Symbol on Front of Church - made by Henry Keiner and the symbol was designed by Otto Blum.

Brass Candle Savers - in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Emling.

Walnut Candelabra - made by Mr. Reuben Bahre.

Shattered-glass Picture in Lounge - made by class of 1969, taught by Carolyn Fieker.

Altar Candle Holders - in memory of George Henderson by Greta Henderson and Family.

Prie-Dieu (Kneeling Bench) - in memory of George H. Hirsch and daughter Patricia by Mrs. Gladys Hirsch and Family. The Prie Dieu used for many years before was made by Mr. Lester Norris.

Evergreens around Church Office and North Lawn - in memory of Mr. Henry H. Schickedanz by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Howard.

Paraments (altar and Chancel) - in memory of Mr. and Mrs. William Sims by the Family.

Dossal Curtains and Header - in memory of Mr. Victor G. Croessmann by wife, Nora and Mrs. Dwight T. Marlow.

Cross for altar - in memory of Mr. and Mrs. George P. Hammann and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Emling by Mr. and Mrs. George F. Hammann.

Flags (American and Christian) - in memory of Miss Minnie Keiner by Mr. Sylvester Keiner, Mr. Lawrence Keiner, Miss Alvina Keiner, and Mrs. Eileen Keiner Hill.

Lights in Sanctuary

Two Front Lights - in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sutter by the Children.

South-Center lights - in memory of Helen Roorbach.

North-Center light - in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kowalzik by Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Terry.

Offering Plates - in memory of Mr. Gerald Brock by Mrs. Harold Albers and Mrs. Irene Brock.

Desk and Chairs in Study - in honor of Mrs. Cynthia Keiner Rainwater by Henry Keiner.

Out-door Bulletin Board - in memory of Mr. and Mrs. George Keiner by their children, Mr. Sylvester Keiner, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Keiner, Miss Alvina Keiner and Mr. and Mrs. Max Hill.

Memorial Trust Fund - in memory of Mrs. Emma Grills by her sons, Raymond and Richard Grills Family.

Lounge Funiture - in memory of Mr. Prentice Anderson by Mrs. Prentice Anderson and Kathryn.

Picture of Mrs. D. T. Marlow in music room - by Mr. D. T. Marlow.

Air-Conditioning in Sanctuary and Dining Hall - in Memory of Mrs. Lena Rhodes.

Youth Fireside Room Furniture-by Miss Kathryn Anderson

Piano in Sanctuary - in memory of Mr. and Mrs. William Morgenstern by Mr. Arthur Morgenstern.

Combination Unit (Youth Fireside room) - by Mrs. Prentice Anderson.

Table and 2 Chairs in Choir Room - in memory of Mrs. Virginia Appuhn Yates by Miss Kathryn Anderson.

Piano in Choir Room - by Mrs. Prentice Anderson and daughter, Kathryn.

Picture "Grace" - in memory of Mr. Chris Schickedanz by Mrs. Chris Schickedanz and Karl.

Refrigerator for Kitchen - in memory of Mr. Prentice Anderson, by President of Victory Metal Mfg. Corp., Plymouth Meeting, Penn.

Rug for Pastor's Study - in memory of Mrs. Lola Naumer by Miss Kathryn Anderson.

Centennial Display Cabinet - made by Edd Mazure and Rev. Fieker.

Klingelbeutel - made by Rev. and Mrs. Fred Fieker.

Carillon Chimes - in memory of the following:

Mr. Valentine Pflanz, by Mrs. Kathryn Pflanz Family.

Mr. and Mrs. George H. Keiner, by their Children, Mr. Henry Keiner, and Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hirsch, the Herman Walters Family, Mrs. Eileen Heiman, and Mrs. Dorothy Pick.

Mrs. Minnie Bruder, by Mrs. Margaret Adams.

Mr. John Pauletich, by Mrs. Laura Pauletich.

Mr. George Hammann, by Mrs. Clara Hammann.

Mrs. Thelma Galloway, by Mr. Olin Galloway and family.

Mr. John Harsy, by the Adam Harsy Family.

Mr. Richard Harsy, by the Charles Harsy Family.

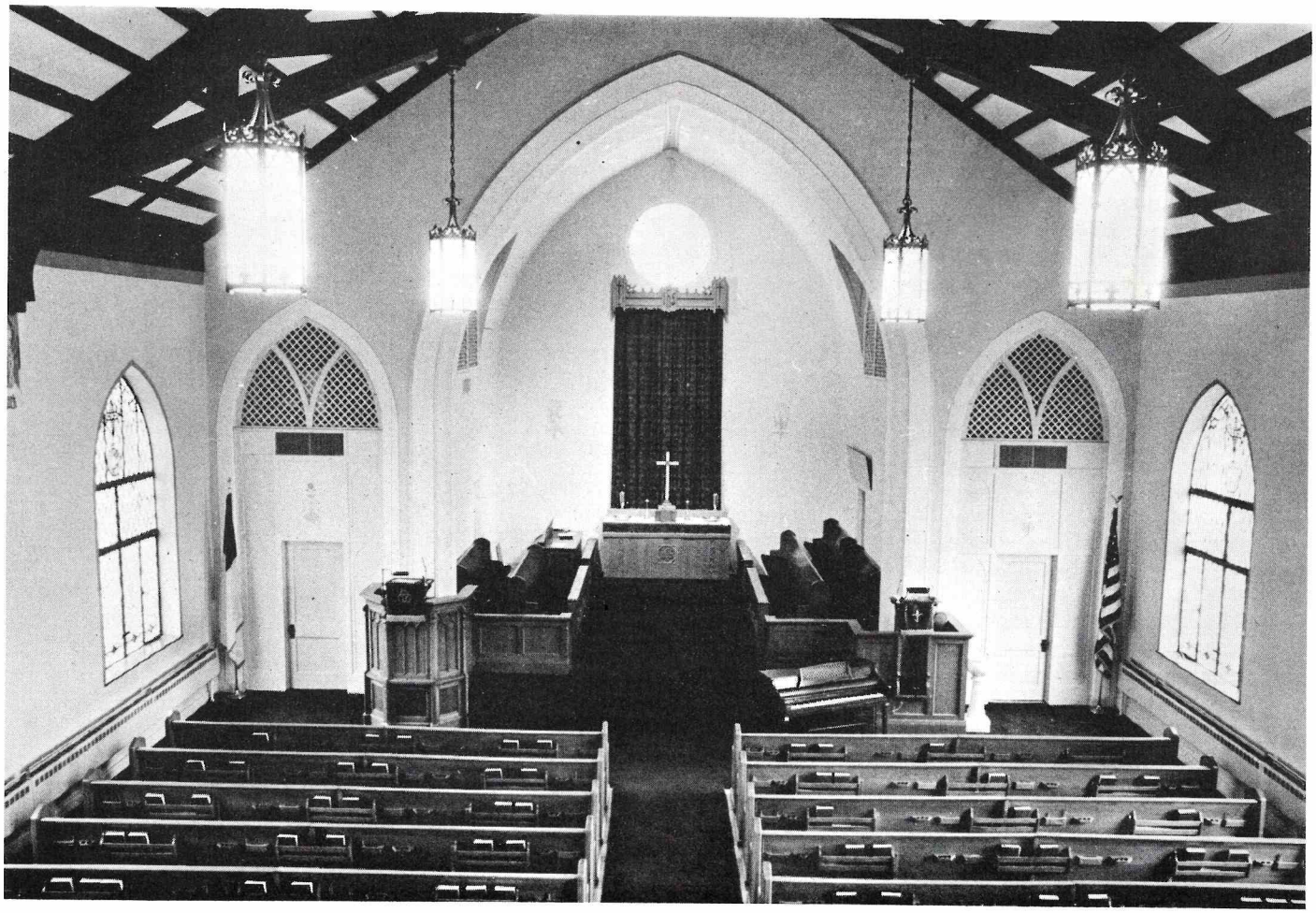
Mr. Earl Higgerson, by Mrs. Helen Higgerson and family.

Mr. Albert F. Kowalzik and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Kowalzik, by Mrs. Charlotte Mundt Behling of Hagen, Germany.

Mr. Lyle Kell, by Mrs. Kathryn Kell.

Organ Fund has been started in memory of Mrs. Minnie Bruder, by Mrs. Margaret Adams with the thought that others will want to add to the fund.

Memorial Fund - Many wish to contribute to this fund which is used from time to time to purchase some item of beautification or need for our worship service.



Present Sanctuary

RITES & SACRAMENTS

The practice of infant baptism has always been a part of our Christian heritage. Jesus commanded his disciples saying: "Suffer the little children to come unto me; forbid them not; for to such belongs the Kingdom of God." Our Lord evidently thought of little children as being capable of receiving a spiritual blessing. Because our Master included them in the circle of His love and interest, we want them to have a part in the Christian Fellowship of the church.

Baptism of Ryan Dustin Harsy, February 15, 1976

Parents, in baptism, promise that they will be responsible for the spiritual life of that child until he reaches the age of accountability and makes the decision to become a member of the church through the rite of confirmation. It has been an age-old custom to have godparents (or sponsors) for a child at baptism. They are to exercise spiritual guidance in the event of the sudden death of the parents.

According to the records, the first baptism to take place in the history of the church was for Jacob Louis Schiele. This sacrament, performed by Rev. Kaufman, took place on January 9, 1876, in a Du Quoin public school building. The first baptism in the new St. John's Church building was for Caroline Catherine Jehling on January 28, 1877.

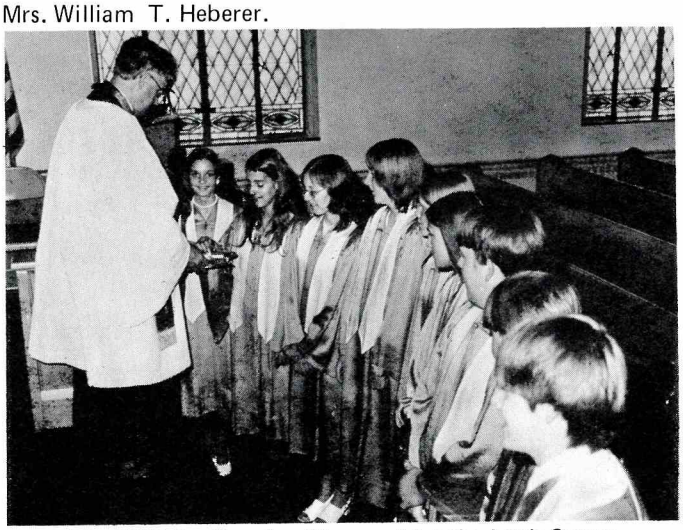
Confirmation has always been an important rite in the life of our denomination. But before a youth could be confirmed, he was required to attend a period of instruction which basically the same, has varied somewhat with almost every individual pastor. One of the primary reasons for the founding of the church was to pass on to the future generations the heritage of their parents faith in the German language. Therefore, the instruction was given in the German language for many years. Some of our members can recall being confirmed by memorizing the Evangelical Catechism, and never fully knowing what the true meaning of that memory work was. Some can recall attending confirmation six days out of each week from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00P.M.; others missed a year of public school and attended confirmation three days each week; others attended each weekday evening after school.

It was during the pastorate of the Rev. W. B. Weltge (January, 1922) that a decision was made to extend confirmation instruction over a two-year period of time, meeting every Saturday from 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 noon from October until Easter. Under no condition could a child under sixteen years of age be confirmed without completing this course.

At the present time we are continuing the two-year period of instruction for one hour each week. There is no longer an emphasis upon memorizing the Evangelical Catechism. Instead, the child is encouraged to develop his own interpretation of the Holy Scriptures and the doctrines of the church, after these have been explained and discussed during the class sessions.

The SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER has always been very important in the life and history of our church. It is most generally celebrated on the festivity days of the church year; such as, Maundy Thursday, Easter, Pentecost, Christmas, and Ash Wednesday. At the time for the founding of the church, Altar communion was always practiced. Then people were ushered to the altar at one time where they partook of the sacrament together. They all drank the wine from the common cup which was a symbol of their Christian unity.

At a later date, 1929, communion trays were purchased with individual cups, primarily for sanitary reasons, but the practice of altar communion was still continued. In 1948, a tray was added to the communion set and the other trays were replated. At that time the practice of pew communion was discussed, but no change was made. With the practice of altar communion the service would many times be prolonged for one and one half hours until all were served. It was not until December of 1950 that the congregation decided to practice pew communion, wherein the elements of the Sacrament were passed through the pews, a practice which continues until this day. At that time a new communion set was purchased with a bequest from the Heberer estate in memory of Mr. and Mrs. William T. Heberer.



The 1975 Confirmation Class receiving the Lords Supper

Funeral Rites have changed considerably throughout the history of the church. At one time, when death occured, the body was taken back to the family dwelling, where it lay in state until the funeral hour. After a brief service in the family home, it was taken to the church for the funeral service. The florist would always arrange the flowers in sprays, and the church would furnish flower girls who carried the flowers into the church, and also out of the church after the service to the

grave site. It was also the custom to toll the church bell once for every year of the age of the deceased as the remains were brought into the church.

There is the beginning of a trend, at this present time, to have private funerals and interment with the family only and to, later, hold a memorial service in the church, celebrating the fact that a life was lived in faith.

The WEDDINGS of the church have always been varied in accordance to the desired of every individual family. The first wedding in the history of the church's organization was Mr. Friedrich Hahn and Miss Johanna Christina Strauch. Rev. J. Kramer performed the ceremony in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig Weingart on August 6, 1876. The first couple married in the new St. John's Church was Mr. Jacob Hummel and Miss Emma Heumann on November 14, 1878. The first couple to be married in the existing sanctuary was Mr. Albert F. Kowalzik and Miss Elsie Gronwald. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Wm. B. Weltge on June 14, 1930.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert F. Kowalzik, 1930

The special observances of the church year have been very meaningful in our heritage. The ADVENT SEASON, which begins four Sundays before Christmas, emphasizes the COMING of Christ. This is a season of penitence in which we prepare ourselves for receiving the Christ Child anew in our lives. Out forefathers brought to this country the custom of the advent wreath. On each of the four Sundays in Advent a candle is lighted on that wreath. The four Advent candles symbolize LOVE, HOPE, JOY, and PEACE. An additional tall white CHRIST CANDLE has been added to the wreath which is lighted on Christmas Eve. The present Advent stand was made from a 100 year -old wagon tongue, which came from the farm of Lawrence and Sylvester Keiner.

The 6:00 A.M. Christmas Candlelight service, which was introduced by Rev. Mauthe, was very inspiring and impressive. The choir and each member, holding a lighted candle, proceeded down the aisle singing "Silent Night". When they reached the Chancel steps, the formation became a lighted cross. This service became a popular, beautiful and traditional observance to many in the community, non-members as well as members. At the present time, this beautiful service is held at 11:00 P.M. on Christmas Eve.

The LENTEN SEASON has been another very important season in our heritage. Beginning forty days before Easter on Ash Wednesday, it is a time in which we give special devotion for the Christ as the Savior of mankind. We have always observed this season with mid-week Lenten services emphasizing the Passion of our Lord. For many years most businesses of the town closed on Good Friday from 12:00 noon to 3:00 P.M. to give every one the opportunity to attend the union Good Friday service. Each minister had one of the Seven Sayings on the Cross and persons could attend any of the sayings.

The last Sunday of the church year, the Sunday before Advent has been observed as TOTENFEST (Memorial Festival to honor the deceased). This is another custom which was derived from our German heritage. Our forefathers thought it was appropriate to honor all who have lived a life of faith and have been summoned to life eternal. Therefore, on this day, the names of all the church members who have died during the past year are read in the morning worship. As each name is read, the church bell is tolled and a candle is lighted on the altar for each soul departed. Then a memorial prayer is given.

OUR HERITAGE IS ALSO VERY RICH IN CHRISTIAN SYMBOLS, the following are the present symbols which we find in our sanctuary at the time of this writing:

ALTAR At the heart of our church building is the Altar, standing as witness to the Real Presence of Christ. It is the focus of our common communion of God and man. To the altar come the common prayers and praises. Upon it are laid gifts of thankfulness. From it are carried the Means of Grace which suffice for the whole of our life. This is why the altar stands central in our chancel.

Our present altar is a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. William Sims.

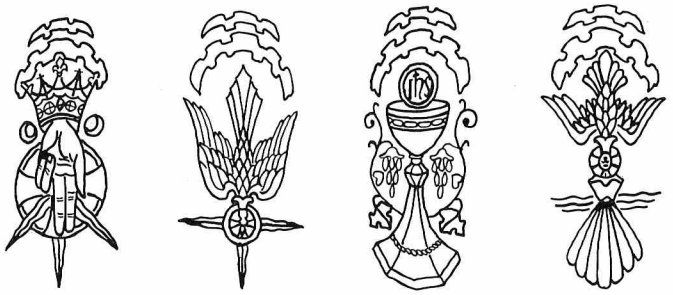
THE ALTAR CROSS This cross is symbolical of Christ's death for our salvation.

THE ALTAR CANDLES AND CANDELABRA They are symbolic of the story of Christ, who came as the Light of the World, (they are also symbols of joy and gladness). They remind the worshiper of his need of that light. The joy and gladness radiating from each candle go out to remind the worshipers of Christ and their need for His Light.

IHS These letters are carved in the center of our altar. They are derived from the Greek word (IHCOYC) for Jesus. As the knowledge of Greek became rare, the Greek C was changed to a Latin S, so the abbreviation was often IHS instead of IHC. Another interpretation for our church which comes out of the German tradition is: JESUS, HEILAND, SELIGMACHER (Jesus, Lord, Saviour).

SHEAF OF WHEAT This symbol, carved on the left hand side of the altar, represents the Bread or the Body of Christ Broken for us.

CLUSTER OF GRAPES Carved on the right hand side of the altar, grapes stand for Wine or the Blood of Christ shed for us.



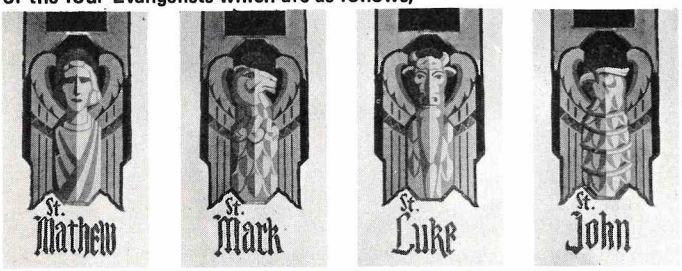
HAND OF GOD This is found on the back wall of the chancel to the left of the altar. The hand shows the thumb and the first two fingers extended, while the other two fingers are turned back toward the heel of the hand, The three fingers refer to the Grace of our Lord, the Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit.

DESCENDING DOVE On the back wall of the chancel to the right of the altar is a dove. It represents the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. Note the three flames coming from the nimbus around the head of the dove. This symbolizes the tongues of fire as they rested upon the followers of Christ (Acts 2:3-4).

CHALICE WITH WAFER ABOVE IT This is found above the front left hand door symbolizing the Sacrament of Communion.

DESCENDING DOVE UPON THE WATER Above the front door on the right is shown a dove descending. It is a symbol of the sacrament of Baptism. In the story of Jesus baptism the Holy Spirit descended "like a Dove".

Below the four front roof trusses of the sanctuary we have the symbols of the four Evangelists which are as follows;



MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST (North Rear) Since it is thought that his Gospel dwells more on the human side of Jesus Christ than the other Gospel records, Matthew is usually pictured as a winged man.

MARK THE EVANGELIST (North Front) Mark is pictured as a winged lion. The lion as king of beasts, represents the royal character of Christ, and refers to the opening verses of the Gospel which tell about "the voice of one crying in the wilderness. The lion also indicates Mark's emphasis on the resurrection, for according to an old fable, the cub of a lion is supposed to be born dead and after three days licked into life by its father.

LUKE THE EVANGELIST (South Front) Luke is symbolized by a winged ox because his Gospel opens with the sacrifice of Zacharias and emphasizes, in the latter part, the sacrificial death of the Saviour.

JOHN THE EVANGELIST (South Rear) The eagle denotes the Evangelist John. The spirit of the Gospel of John, formerly thought to have been written by John the Apostle, is like an eagle soaring to the throne of grace.

The Biblical basis for this imagery of the four evangelists is found in Ezekiel 1:5–10; 19:22 and Revelation 4:7.

Art Window Symbols in the Sanctuary

SOUTH SIDE

CHALICE FILLED WITH GRAPES (Front) This is symbolical of the Blood of Christ poured out for our salvation.

CROWN OF THORNS WITH INRI (Center) This reminds us how Christ was ridiculed upon the cross. A crown was made of thorns and the INRI comes from the Latin words "IESUS NAZARENUS REX IUDAEORUM (Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews). John 19:19.

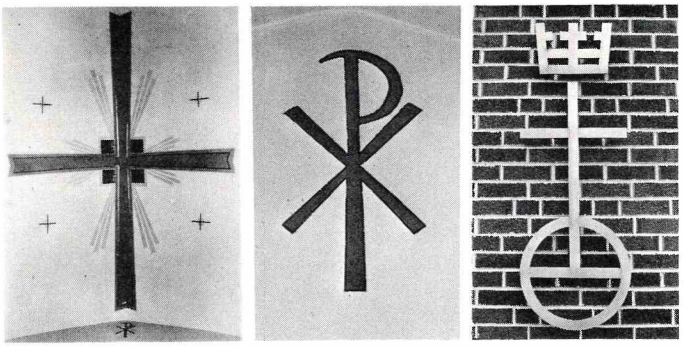
THE ROSE (Rear) Messianic hope (Isaiah 35:1) love, our Lord or His Nativity, Mary the mother of our Lord, paradise, and beauty can be found in the wonders of a rose.

NORTH SIDE

SHEAF OF WHEAT (Rear) The Body of Christ broken for all mankind, even as bread is broken to feed and sustain.

BIBLE WITH ALPHA AND OMEGA (Center) We are reminded that in the scriptures we find the Christ, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. (Revelation 22:13)

CROSS AND CROWN (Front) Herein lies the promise of the reward to those who are faithful unto death. "Be faithful unto death and I will give you the Crown of Life." (Rev. 2:10)



MALTESE CROSS (On chancel ceiling above altar) The Maltese Cross has four arms of equal length, but each arm becomes progressively broader as it leaves the center, in slanting rather than curved, lines. There are two points at the end of each arm, eight in all, representing the beatitudes (Matthew 5: 3-10). The Maltese Cross is also an emblem of John the Baptist and of the Knights of St. John.

THE CHI RHO SYMBOL The Chi Rho Symbol, an ancient monogram of Christ, appears often on altars, book marks, antependia, and stoles. It has been used by the church for the past 1600 years.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST EMBLEM (On the front of the church building) This emblem is based on the ancient Christian symbol known as the "Cross of Victory". or, "The Cross Triumphant." Traditionally, this symbol---the cross surmounted by the crown, and all of it atop the orb, signifies the kingship of the Risen Christ over all the world. The orb, representing the world, is divided into three parts to signify the command of our Lord to His disciples: "You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth."

2005-5-53